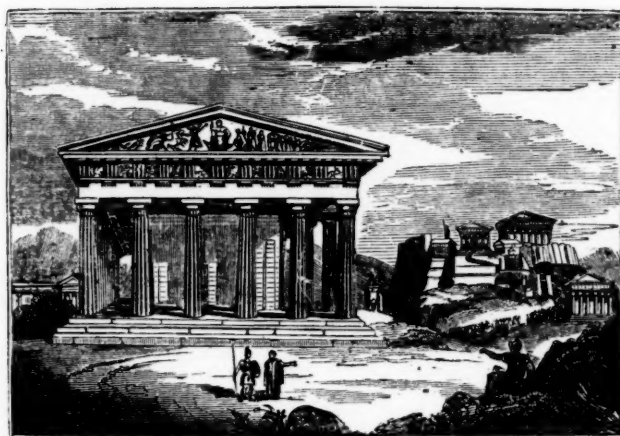


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INDEX OF CONTENTS

TO THE VOLUME FOR 1843.

[The Original Papers are distinguished either by Italics, or a different type from the body of the Index.]

- Abbott's Journey from Herat to Khiva, 661
Adam Brown, the Merchant, 36
Addison, Life of, by Lucy Aikin, 477, 505
Ælfric, Homilies of, trans. by Thorpe, 651
Aeronaut Steam-Engine (with two Illustrations), 339
Aeronautics, by F. W., 391; *Mason's Model*, 1072
Afghanistan, by Lady Sale, 331, 408
—, Scenes in, by Taylor, 708
—, War in, History of, by Nash, 708
Age of Great Cities, by Vaughan, 53
Aiken on Great Britain and United States, 734
Aikin's Life of Addison, 477, 505
Ainsworth's Christian Aborigines of Turkey, 712
Ainsworth's Windsor Castle, 609
Alder's Wesleyan Missions, 109
Alexander's Anglo-Catholicism not Apostolical, 749
Alexander's Letters on Slave-Trade, 505
Algernon Sidney on Art-Unions [see Art-Unions], 507
Allen's Diary of March through Sinde, 919
ALMANACS, &c.:—1843: Punch's Pocket—Naturalist's Pocket—Victoria, 14—1844: Punch's Pocket, &c., 981; Almanacs, 1046, 1070, 1090, 1107, 1161; Companion to Almanac, 1133
Alps of Savoy, Forbes's Travels, 666, 693
Amari's War of Sicilian Vespers, 647
America, Ancient, Jones's Hist. of, 607
—, North, Discoveries by Simpson, 725
—, Religion in, by Baird, 1001
—, South, by J. P. and W. P. Robertson, 254
American Book Circular, 307; *Letter from the Editor of the Foreign Quarterly Review*, 396; Rejoinder, 422
—, Criminal Trials, by Chandler, 231
Amnesty, The, by Ellerman, 734
Angling, Enjoyment of, by Phillips, 712
Anglo-Catholicism, by Alexander, 749
Animalcules, Pritchard's, 284
Annette Gervais, 630
ANNUALS:—1843: Christian Souvenir, 61—1844: Gift, 941. Recreation, 981. Forget-Me-Not, 1007. Book of Beauty, 1025. Keepsake, 1026. Picturesque Annual, 1044. Victoria, 1090. Prism of Imagination, 1090
Annual Biography for 1842, by Dodd, 630
Annuities and Reversionary Payments, by Jones, 284
Antarctic Expedition, 163, 212, 264, 820
Anti-Duel, by Dunlop, 606
Antiquities, Gallery of: Egyptian Art, 962
—, Roman, by Henslow, 1069
Arabella Stuart, by G. P. R. James, 1159
Archæological Magazine, by Sealy, 548
Archer's Rachel of Padanaram, 943
Architecture: Prof. Cockerell's Lectures, 17, 37, 61, 86, 134, 158, 185; Principles of Gothic Ecclesiastical, by Bloxam, 86; *Modern Russian, New Winter Palace*, 111; Anglican Church, by Barr, 211; Lady Mary Fox's Country House, 479; Barrington's Chronological Chart, 309; Christian, Fugin's Apology, 643; *On the Determination of the Style of Ecclesiastical (with diagram)*, *Letter from Mr. Wighams*, 696; Aunt Elino's Lectures on, 791; Lecture on Church, by Prof. Kugler, 860; Symbolism of Churches from Durandus, by Neale and Webb, 896; Quarterly Papers on, 1021; English Churches, Remarks on, by Markland, 1068; Gailhabaud's Ancient and Modern, 740, 965, 1139; *Architectura Canonica*, 1154
Arithmetic and Examples, by Foster, 61
Aristotle, Poetics of, by F. von Raumer, 259
Arnold's Modern History, 1125
—, History of Rome, 1125
Artist's and Amateur's Magazine, by Ripplingill, 629
Artists, Public Gallery for Works of Living, 390, 440
Art-Unions and Little-Goes—Mrs. Parkes' Reply to Mr. Moon's Letter, 16, 39, 40, 63, 92, 166; Comments on Polytechnic Union and "Little-Goes"—Mrs. Parkes' Reply to Mr. Lloyd's Letter, 113 [see also p. 117]; Lotteries, &c., 166, 196; *Letter from Mr. Lloyd*, 196; *Scr. Telford's Opinion on the Illegality of Art-Unions, with Comments*, 218; Mr. Kelly's Opinion, 364; Lotteries, &c., 293; Art-Union Premium to Mr. Selous, 341; Lotteries and Little-Goes Distributions, 347; Lotteries, &c., 372; Distribution of, Prizes of London Art-Union, 418; Exhibition of Prize Pictures, 757; Progress of Lotteries, 422; More Lotteries, 470; Lotteries—Hercford Art-Union, 494; Algernon Sidney's Letter, 507; Derby "Sweeps," 534; Progress of Lotteries, 574, 614, 620, 624; Polytechnic Union, 654; Progress of Lotteries, 700, 718, 758, 795, 909, 1137
Asher's Scriptorum Rerum Germanicarum, 754
Astronomical Society, Memoirs of, 430
Attaché, The, 622, 648
Attica and Athens, from Müller, by Lochkart, 29
Aunt Martha, 793
Aurora Borealis, Letter from Sir J. Herschel, 465
Austria, by Kohl, 789, 840
—, Medical Institutions, by Wilde, 563
Australia and the East, by Hood, 843
Australian Colonies, by Backhouse, 303
Baby Linen, Lady's Hand-Book of, 149
Baby's Wardrobe, The, 149
Backhouse's Visit to Australian Colonies, 303
Baillie's Letters, ed. by Laing, 626
Bainbridge's Rose of Woodlee, 629
Baird's Religion in America, 1001
Bandinell's Hist. of Slavery, 505
Banker's Wife, by Mrs. Gore, 900
Barham's Life of Reuchlin, 569
Barham's Moscow, 901
Baroness, The, 548
Baronetage, by Broun, 406
Barr's Anglican Church Architecture, 211
Barry's Advantages of Feudal System, 944
Battel and its Abbey, 1070
Baynes's Ramble in the East, 283
Beamish on Cold-Water Cure, 509
Bearn and Basque Country, by Mazure, 101
—, Poetry of, by Vignancour, 8
Beauty and Expression, Prof. Green's Lect., 1108, 1134
Becker's Omnigraph Atlas of Modern Geography, 669
Bedford, Fourth Duke of, Correspondence of, 729
Beechey's Voyage to North Pole, 327, 361
Belcher's Voyage round the World, 173
Belle of the Family, 943
Bell's Chronological Tables of Universal History, 86
Bell's Hist. of British Pharmacy, 735
Ben Bradshawe, 629
Benjamin's Poetry, a Satire, 670
Bennock's Storm, 695
Bentham's Works, Burton's Introduction to, 569
Bible, The Imperial Family, 695
Birds, British, Hist. of, by Yarrell, 900
Birk's First Elements of Sacred Prophecy, 962
Björnstjerna's Theogony of Hindús, 1069
Blackie on Stead's Wood Pavement, 1070
Blackie's Plea for Liberation, 1003
Black's Juvenile Poems, 1160
Blessington's (Lady) Meredith, 650
Blind, Hughes's Embossed Alphabet, 712
Bloom's Notices of Castle Acre, 751
Bloxam's Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture, 86
Bollingbroke, Works of, 363
Borgia, by Worley, 177
Borrow's Zincali, 333
Bosanquet's Essays on Evil, 812
Botany, Forbes's Inaugural Lecture on, 609
Botta [see Nineveh].
Bowen's Critical Essays, 34
Bowring's Church of the Saviour, 61
Boyd's Hist. of Literature, 708
Bradley's Stenography, 981
Bremer's (Frederika), A Diary, 1087
—, The H— Family, 1022
—, President's Daughters, 816
—, Strife and Peace, 934
—, The Home, 47
British Museum, [see Museum].
Brooks on Improvement of Rivers, 897
Brothers, The, 1160
Brougham's Historical Sketches, 977, 1002, 1023
Broun's Baronetage, 406
Brown's Fossil Conchology, 901
Browne's Norwood Schools, 485
Browning's Dramatic Lyrics, 385
—, Return of the Druses, 608
Buller's Emigrant's Hand-Book of Facts, 630
Bulwer's (Sir E.) Last of the Barons, 205
Burgess's Diseases of Skin, 364
Burge's Temple Church, 301 [see also Temple].
Burgomaster of Berlin, 959
Burgraves, The, by Victor Hugo, 459
Burke's Days in the East, 334
Burke's Law of Copyright, 383
Burnet's Discourses of Reynolds, 747, 768
Burns and Clarinda, Correspondence of, 1102
Burns's Plays and Fugitive Poems, 770
Bush's Memoirs of Queens of France, 37
Business, Late Hours in, by King—Flower—Davies, Publications of Association, 1104
Busy-Body, The, 753
Bythell's Salopia, 235
Cabul, Military Operations at, by Eyre, 5, 35
Caister Castle, by Dawson Turner, 1158
Calabrella, Baroness, Prism of Thought, 329
—, Prism of Imagination, 1090
Calabria and Sicily, by Strutt, 232
Caleb Stukely, 1090
Calculating, System of, by Mercator, 695
Calderon's (Mad.) Life in Mexico, 78, 106, 131, 153
Canden Society: Rutland Papers, 83; *Anniversary Meeting*, 441; Diary of Dr. Thomas Cartwright, 644; Contemporary Narrative of Proceedings against Alice Kyteler, 859; Letters of Eminent Literary Men, 875; Way's Promptorium Parvulorum, 981
Cameron's (Mrs.) Farmer's Daughter, 695
Cameron's Notabilities of Wakefield, 589
Campbell's Excursions in Ceylon, 813
Canada, Nova Scotia, &c., 793
Cant, 1133
Carlton's New Purchase, 695
Carlyle's Past and Present, 453, 480
Carpenter's Mechanical Philosophy, 604, 676
Carruthers' Highland Note-Book, 260
Carstairs' Penmanship, 695
Cartwright, Life and Inventions, 915, 935, 1064
Castell's Female Happiness, 981
Castleacre Priory and Castle, by Bloom, 751
Caswall on Mormons, 280
Caswall's Journal of Australian Squatter, 865
Catlow's Popular Conchology, 211
Cemeteries, Laying out, by Loudon, 567
Ceylon, Campbell's Excursions in, 813
Chandler's American Criminal Trials, 231
Change for American Notes, 645
Channing's Posthumous Letters, 505
Charles XII., 651
Charnock's Legendary Rhymes, 651
Charnwood Forest, by Potter, 34
Chatterton's (Lady) Pyrenees, 430
Chaucer, Works of, 712
Chemical Analysis, by Parnell, 308
Chemical Coloration, by Melloni, 385
Chemistry for Schools, by Lover, 735
—, made Easy, by Topham, 944
—, Organic, by Liebig, 14
Cheyne's Essays on Partial Derangement of Mind, 901
Child's Letters from New York, 880, 895
Children's Books, 259, 284, 548, 1140
Children's Employment Commission, 203, 228, 257
China—Protestant Mission, by Dr. Moseley, 37; Ten Thousand Things, by W. B. Langdon, 105; Rambles of Emperor Ching Tib, 429; Closing Events of Campaign in, by Loch, 605; Last Year in, 605
Christians, Eminent, Hone's, 509
Christian Mother, by Mary Milner, 61
Christmas Carol, 1127
Chronological Tables of Universal Hist., by Bell, 86
Church of Christ, by Stebbing, 14
Church of England, Moderation of, by Fuller, 943
Church, Hist. of, by Theodoretus, 943
Chuzzlewit, Martin, 209
Clarke's Love and Duty, 364
Clergy, Law's Address to, 669
Clulow's Polylogy, 329
Cockerell, Professor—*Lectures on Architecture*, 17, 37, 61, 86, 134, 158, 185
Cœur-de-Lion, Life of, by James, 503
Coins, Gold and Silver, by Eckfeldt and Du Bois, 544
Collins's Teacher's Companion, 86
Colonies, Tales of, 586
Colonial Library—Borrow's Bible in Spain, 901
Colonization and Colonies, by Merivale, 359
Cologne Cathedral, 191, 594, 693, 845, 907, 1049, 1113
Colton's Tecumseh, 818
Columbiad, by Ritchie, 735
Comet, the—Letter from R. H. Schomburgk, 529
Comic Nursery Tales—Sleeping Beauty, 259; Jack the Giant Killer, 284; Beauty and the Beast, 548 [see also Home Treasury].
Commerce, Waterston's Cyclopædia of, 630
Commissioner, The, 10
Commons, Hist. of House of, by Townsend, 405
Conchologia Systematica, by Reeve, 364
Conchology, Popular, by Catlow, 211
Concordance, Hebrew and English, of Old Test., 1008
Confession, The, 149
Cencilly, [see Stoddart].
Consuelo, by George Sand, 766
Cook's Pulmonary Consumption, 260
Cooper's Wyandotté, 792
—, Ned Myers, 1059
Cooper (Sir Asley), Life of, by B. B. Cooper, 6, 30
Copyright Questions—Designs, Copyright of, by Brace, 37. *New Act of Parliament—Literary Piracy*, 163. M. Poncelet's *Mécanique Industrielle*, 206. Literary Piracy, 314. [see also p. 307.] Treatise on Law of Copyright, by Burke, 383. *Literary Piracy*—Judgment against Clarke, 441. Extract from Boston (U.S.) *Advertiser*, 557. Messrs. Farnar's Petition, 675. Copyright in Colonies, 795. Memorial of American Booksellers and Publishers, 963, 1010.
Cornish's Jurymen's Legal Hand-Book, 710
Corporation of London, Municipal Reform, 918
Cortez, Despatches, trans. by Folsom, 836
Costello's Gabrielle, 454
Counting-House Manual, by Calculator, 695
Country-House, by Lady Mary Fox, 479
Cowper's Version of Odyssey, 793
Craig's Philosophy of Training, 793

Cricket, Practical Hints on, 570
 Criminal Jurisprudence, by Sampson, 253
 Critical Essays, by Bowen, 34
 Croly's Index to Tracts for the Times, 61
 Croton Aqueduct, by J. B. Towers, 974; *Letter from Mr. Borron, with Comments*, 1046
 Cruden's Gravesend, 1149
 Cunningham's Life of Wilkie, 357, 387, 411
 Curling's Soldier of Fortune, 1133
 Curwen's Journal and Letters, by Ward, 207
 Customs, Old English Charities, &c., by Edwards, 155
 Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature, by Kitto, 650
 Cyclops of Euripides, 483
 Czar, Empire of, by De Custine, 957
 Daguerrotypes, The [see Photography]
 Daily Service, Order of, 651
 Dalton's Brief Thoughts, 843
 — Jesuits, 569
 Dante, 1132
 Davidson's Travels in Upper India, 976
 Davis's Facts relative to Houses of Parliament, 695
 Davis's Fancies of a Dreamer, 364
 Days and Nights of Salmon Fishing, by Scrope, 481
 Day's Chronicles of Ierne, 109
 Day-Dreams, by Capt. Knox, 437
 Days' Excursions out of London—Stoke Poges—Burnham—Maidenhead, 715; Malmesbury Abbey, 736; Panthanger, 882, 904
 Days in the East, by Burke, 334
 De Custine's Empire of the Czar, 957
 Decoration: *Essay on Pavements*, 1011; *Owen Jones's Designs for Mosaic Pavements*, 1012; *Wilson's Observations*, 984; *House Painting*, 1074, 1114, 1162; at *Travellers' Club*, 737; *Pavements*, 266, 292
 Dennie (Col.) Letters of, 705
 Diary, by Bremer, 1087
 Dickens's Christmas Carol, 1127
 Dictionary of Arts, Sciences, and Manufactures, 770
 — Derivations, by Sullivan, 179
 — Greek and Roman Biography, 483
 Dieffenbach's Travels in New Zealand, 125
 Dirge of Westminster, 508
 Distress of Nations, by Gray, 589
 Dodd's Annual Biography for 1842, 630
 Dodd's Church Hist. by Tierney, 735
 Dodd's Days at the Factories, 670
 Drama in Middle Ages, by Görres, 811, 812
 Dramatic Lyrics, by Browning, 385
 Dream of a Queen's Reign, 734
 Dryade, The, Shipwreck of, 259
 Dühring's Art of Living, 943
 Dumas's Celebrated Crimes, 485
 Dunlop's Anti-Duel, 606
 Duval's Poems, 670
 Earl of Leicester, 1008
 Earthquakes, 244, 268, 293, 369, 574, 677, 1028
 East on Consumption and Apoplexy, 37
 East, Visit to, by Formy, 629
 Eaton's Josephine, 211
 Eckfeldt and Du Bois, Manual of Coins, 544
 Education: Teacher's Companion, by Collins, 86; *Clauses in the Factory Bill*, by Fox, 484; *Brown's New-wood Schools*, 485; *Light and Life for the People*, by Symons—Equity without Compromise, by Swaine—Calm Inquiry, by Lloyd—Judgment of Solomon, by Girdlestone, 589; *Parent's High Commission—Evans's Class Instruction*, 712; *Ninth Report of Commissioners in Ireland*, 754; *Plea for Liberty*, by Hinton, 962; *Parent's School and College Guide*, 1670
 Edwards's Marriage, 734
 Edwards on Old English Customs and Charities, 155
 Edwards's Piety and Intellect, 712
 Edward Somers, 1070
 Egerton's (Lord F.) Mediterranean Sketches, 104
 Eggs of British Birds, by Hutton, 301
 Egypt and Holy Land, by Fisk, 1043; by Smith, 609
 — *Archeol. Arts, by Whistler*, 588
 — Modern Hist. and Condition of, by Yates, 37
 Egyptian Gallery of Antiquities, 902
 Elegiac Poems, 486
 Ellerman's *Annals*, 734
 Elliston, Raymound's Life of, 1133
 Elwin's Mens Compendium, 794
 Elwood's (Mrs.) *Memories of Literary Ladies*, 13
 Emigrant's Hand-Book of Facts, by Butler, 630
 Endless Story, The, in Rhyme, 754
 Engineering and Architecture, Mosley's, 206
 English School Books: Sullivan's English Grammar—Orthography and Etymology—Geography and History—Keystone of Grammar—Elementary and Etymological Manual—Geography and History, by Ross—European Geography made Interesting, by Gaskin, 570; *True Stories from Hist. of Church*, by King—*Tabular View of Old Testament Hist.* by Baker—*Book of Bible Characters*, by Questions, by Baker, 670; *Exercises on Etymology*, by Graham, 770; *Short and Easy Catechism—Questions for Self-Examination—Pictorial Spelling and Reading Assistant*, by Steill—*Select Poetry for Children*, by Payne, 944; *Child's Guide through Bible*, by Fletcher, 981; *Juvenile English Grammar*, by Simmonite, 1070

English Wife, The, 58
 Etruria, History of, by Mrs. Gray, 623
 Events of Military Life, by Henry, 752
 Evil, Bosanquet's Essays, 812
 EXHIBITIONS:
 British Institution, 165, 195; *(Old Masters)*, 392, 550, 591, 612; *Letter from a Member of the Institute of Fine Arts*, 506; *Panorama—Edinburgh*, 214—*Baden-Baden*, 392—*Coblenz*, 634—*Treport Harbour*, 1138; *Winterhalter's Portraits of Her Majesty and Prince Albert*, 240; Sir R. K. Porter's Pictures, 289; *National Gallery*, new *Van Eyck*, 291; *Miss Eden's Sketches*, 313; *Society of British Artists*, 315; *Picture Sales—Dr. Franck's Pictures*, 313—*Wilkin's Copies*, 291, 340—*Aguedo Collection*, 341, 369—*Morland's Pictures*, 441—*Sir Bethel Codrington's*, 489—*Broughton and W. Collections*, 513; *Reimer's Sale*, 571; Sir G. Hayter's Reform Picture, 340; *Royal Academy*, 492, 511, 530, 551, 570; Mr. Daniell's Drawings and Sketches, 368; *Leslie's Christening of the Princess Royal*, 368; Lord F. Egerton's Velasquez, 368; the *Lichfield Ruysdael*, 369; The *Napoleon Museum*, 369; *Picture Collections*, 691; *Brueghel and Van Balen's Triumph of Flora*, 467; *Diorama, Notre Dame de Paris*, 418; *Society of Painters in Water Colours*, 443, 468; *New Society of Painters in Water Colours*, 443, 468; *Dresden Statuary*, 553; *Canova's Amorino*, 571; *Cartoon Exhibition*, Names of Prize Holders, 291, 313, 418, 611, 633, 652, 744, 738, 845; *New Cartoons* by Raphael, 674; M. Léonard's Experiments, 675; *Frescoes* by Paul Veronese, 698; *Annibal Carracci's Andromeda*, 754; *Model of Venice*, 820; *Armstrong's Hydro-Electric Machine*, 945; *Singing Mouse*, 845; *Chinese Exhibition*, 1048
 Explosion at Dover, by Sir John Herschel, 111 [see also pp. 92, 221, 396, 926]
 Eyre's Military Operations in Cabul, 5, 35
 Ezekiel's Vision of the Chariot, 1160
 Fair Chinese Maid, The, 14
 False Hair, The, by James, 508
 Farmers of Suffolk, Letters to, by Henslow, 695
 Farnham's Travels in Western Prairies, 460, 1040
 Faust, trans. by Gurney, 629
 Fauvé's Champs de Roses, 1008
 Fenton's Poems, 509
 Fifth Political Word, by Viscount Wellesley, 228
 Figeac's Poems of Duke Charles of Orleans, 691
 FINE ARTS—New Publications:
 Book of German Ballads, 740; *Broekedon's Italy*, 740, 965; *Bromley's Sunday Morning*, after Johnstone, 141; *Burnett's Lassie Herding Sheep*, after E. Landseer, 597
 Cambridge Camden Society, Hints on Practical Study of Ecclesiastical Antiquities, 115; *Church Schemes*, 115; *Caricature* by Pam, 494; *Chevalier's Saint's Day*, after Knight, 346; *Ciceri's Sketches of China*, after Borget, 141; *Collins's Painters' Etchings*, 346; *Cousins's Sir N. C. Tindal*, after Phillips, 141
 Dickson's Outlines of Celebrated Pictures, 597; Dupont's Stafford, after Delacroix, 346
 Eden's Princes and People of India, 597; *Examples of Encaustic Tiles*, 740; *Eyre's Portraits of Cabul Prisoners*, 597
 Farin and Feuchère's L'Art Industriel, 346; *Flatters's Paradise Lost*, 597
 Gailhabaud's Ancient and Modern Architecture, 740, 965, 1139; *Grüner's Arabesque Frescos*, from the Works of Raphael and Michelangelo, 675
 Harding and Hall's Baronial Halls, &c. of England, 964; *Harrison's Views and Details of Christ Church*, 115
 Illuminated Illustrations of Froissart, 740, 965; *Illustrations of Baptismal Fonts*, 964
 Jazet's Paul and Virginia, after Schöpin, 346; *Jones and Gourey's Views on the Nile*, 597
 Kretschmar's Windsor Castle, 740; *Knight's (Gally) Ecclesiastical Architecture of Italy*, 345; *Knight's London, Pictorial History of England*, Pictorial Museum, 965
 Lake Price's Views of Venice (specimen plates), 597; T. Landseer's Laying down the Law, after E. Landseer, 141; *Le Keux's Memorials of Cambridge*, 395; *Lewis's Devonshire Rivers*, 596; *Lewis's Hawking in Olden Time*, after E. Landseer, 141; *Lewis's Mr. and Mrs. Hawk*, after E. Landseer, 141; *Linnell's Flora*, after Da Vinci, 965; *London Interiors*, 1140; *London's (Mrs.) Ladies' Flower Garden*, 740, 965; *Laurel's Gates of Somnath*, 597
 Martinet's Charles the First, after Delacroix, 346; *Mauy's Subjects from the Designs of the Carracci*, 740; *Monumental Brasces*, by Waller, 43; *Mulready's Vicar of Wakefield* (with eight cuts), 65
 Nash's Oriental Sketches, after Wilkie, 346
 Oxford Architectural Society, Guide to the Architectural Antiquities in Neighbourhood of Oxford, Deanery of Bicester, 115
 Paleographia Sacra Pictoria, 965; *Papprill's Capture of Amoy*, after Crawford, 141
 Richardson's Monumental Effigies of the Temple, 1051; *Robert's Holy Land*, 740; *Ryall's Coronation of Queen Victoria*, after Sir G. Hayter, 141
 Sculptural Monuments, Tottle, 1139; *Sebber's Three Shakespeare's Songs by the Etching Club*, 141; *Shaw's Dresses and Decorations*, 20, 740; *Slave Market at Constantinople*, after Allan, 141; *Smith's (Bernard) Capt. Ross*, 947; *Stevenson's Judge Bushe*, 141
 Tottle's Sepulchral Monuments, 1139
 Queen Victoria in Scotland, 1842, 20
 Virtue's Canadian Scenery, 740—*Scenery of Ireland*, 740
 Vasey's Dolls Garden, 141; *Westwood's British Moths*, 965; *Winkles' Cathedrals*, 740
 Fenn's Jews in China, 670
 Fire-side Philosophy, 211
 Fishes of Madeira, by Lowe, 901
 Fisk's Egypt and Holy Land, 1043

Fitzherbert's Island Minstrel, 14
 Floral Fancies, 259
 Forbes's Lecture on Botany, 609
 Forbes's Travels, Observations on Glaciers, 666, 693
 FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE: *Leipzig*, 15, 39, 64, 69, 100; *Rome*, 30; *The Pyramid*, *Glash* (Letter from Mr. W. H.), 189, see also p. 268; *Berlin*, 199, 290; *Cairo*, 214, (with two woodcuts), 844, 884, 1091; *Alexandria*, 338; *Carthage*, 465, 509, 530, 549, 590; *Sakharah*, 487, see also p. 611; *New York*, 510; *Pirara* (Letter from Mr. Schomburgk), 529, see also pp. 215, 241, 1091, 1093, 1111; *Frankonia*, &c., 631; *Maria*, 672, 770, see also p. 1063; *Mosul* (Letter from Mr. Botta), 697, see also pp. 594, 632, 928; *Archæological Researches in Greece* (Letter from Mr. Finlay), 713; *A By-way on the Rhine*, 968; *Rhine-Land*, 904; *China* (*Anger Roads*), 944; *Anger*, 962.
 Forest Days, by James, 61
 Form, Harmony of, by Hay, 541, 584
 Formby's Visit to the East, 629
 Foss on Grandeur of Law, 502
 Fossil Conchology, by Brown, 901
 Fossils, British, Catalogue of, by Morris, 901
 Foster's Arithmetic and Examples, 61
 Fox on Educational Clauses in Factory Bill, 484
 France, Governmental Organization considered, 1070
 Fraser's Guide to Wicklow, 37
 Fraser's Scientific Wanderings, 589
 Frederick the Great, Court and Times, 81, 128
 French School Books: *Pontet's Teacher—De Porquet's Trésor Complément*; *Girardet's Easy Lessons—Synth's First Grammar—Aird's Self-Instructing Grammar—Beauvoisin's French Language in Four Months—Guillery's New Grammar*, 570; *Lectures Grammaticales—Jobert's Art of Questioning and Answering*, 1008
 Fresco-Painting, Report on, by Wilson, 902, 923
 Fuller's Moderation of Church of England, 943
 Fulton and Steam Navigation, 1064
 Gabrielle, by L. S. Costello, 454
 Garbett's Bampton Lectures, 749
 Gaspy's Summer Offerings, 1160
 Gavin on Feigned and Fictitious Diseases, 787
 Geneva, by Trench, 211
 Geographical Books: *System of Universal*, 14; *Generalized*, by Sullivan, 37; *Middleton's Companion to Celestial Atlas—White's System of Modern*, 57; *Omnigraph Atlas*, by Becker, 699; *First Catechism of*, by Wilson, 965; *Outlines of Sacred—of British*, by Thomas, 1068
 Geology, *Museum of Economic*, 16, 754
 Geology of Londonderry, by Portlock, 651
 Germany, *Living Political Poets of* (with trans.), 1070
 German Naturalist, Diary of, 664, 690
 German School Books: *Blanchard's Word-Book*, 61; *Klauser's Grammar—Exercises for Beginners—Deutsche Amaranthen*, 570; *Hauff's Das Kalle Herz*, by Apel, 901
 Giordano's Venice in 1838, 901
 Girdlestone's Judgment of Solomon, 589
 Glaciers, Forbes on, 666, 693
 Gleanings from South, East, and West, 793
 Glossary to Bygone Hours, 793
 Godfrey Malvern, by Miller, 570
 Goodwin's Examination of Dr. Pusey's Sermon, 1008
 Gore's (Mrs.) Banker's Wife, 900
 Görres on Drama in Middle Ages, 811, 842
 GOSSIP: [the more important paragraphs only are specified]
 English—Bank of England Library, 39; *Servants' Library, Athenæum Club—Window Improvements*, 63; *Foreign and Colonial Quarterly*—*Willesley Library—Etchings*, 1040; *Miss Mitford*, 162; *New Royal Academicians*, 164, 1010; *Miss Wilkie's Gift*, 214; *Literary Fund*, 240, 467; *Plate to Mr. Moon*, 240; *Sydenham Society*, 241; *Exhibition at Liverpool Mechanics' Institution—Booksellers' Provident Institution*, 294; *Letter from Mr. M'Claren on the Homeric Hymn*, 294 (see also p. 191); *Medical Periodicals*, 291; *Thames Tunnel—Comet*, 292—*Medical Reforms*, 313; *Southey's Library*, 340; *Testimonial to Miss Martineau*, 398; *Restorations at Oxford*, 392; *Westminster Hall*, 418; *Library on Birmingham Railway—Medal to Hullmandel*, 441; *Free Exhibitions*, 466; *Outrage to Danby's 'Sixth Seal'—Prince Albert's Fresco Commission*, 467; *Rev. S. Smith's Petition to Congress*, 488; *Duke of Sussex's Library*, 489; *Bequest of Thomas's Medals to British Museum*, 489, 513; *Lockhart's Appointment*, 513; *German Antiquities—New Screen in Grosvenor Street—Court Dress—London Library*, 533; *Fitzwilliam Museum*, 552; *Macready's Testimonial*, 593; *Museum of King's College—Royal Society Catalogue*, 594; *Anti-Duelling Association*, 634; *Handel Society*, 632; *Carey Scholarship*, 674; *British and Foreign Literary Institute*, 698; *Portrait of Gervillius—Marlborough Papers—Duelling—Appointment of Father Prout*, 738; *Present from Emperor of Russia to Mr. Michelson—Hogarth at Bristol*, 746; *Letter from Mr. Hooking*, with comments (771); *Waltham Abbey*, 770; *Doings at Wisbeach—Sir R. Peel's Letter to Mr. Eastlake*, 794; *Mr. Parkyn's in Africa—Frescoes at Doncaster*, 795; *Captains James Ross and Harris—New Dramatic Act*, 820; *National Gallery—Outlands Park*, 869; *Old College of Physicians*, 865; *Pension to Lady Hill*, 907—947; *Round Church, Cambridge*, 907; *News of the Samarang*, 947; *Savoy Chapel*, 946; *Graham College—Window at Eton College*, 967; *Pension to Sir W. Hamilton*, 1028; *Mr. Eastlake and Sir A. Calcott's Appointments—School for Design—Female Wood-Engraving*, 1048—1072; *Hood's Magazine*, 1093; *Royal Academy Prizes—New Professorships and Appointments—Dissenters' College*, 1113; *Institute of Fine Arts*, 1137; *Wordsworth's Epitaph on Southey*, 1161;—*Musical and*

GOSSIP—continued.

- Theatrical—89, 114, 139, 164, 214. Service by Tallis, 365.
 292, 341, 393, 419, 467, 533. Autumnal Festivals,
 573, 635, 686, 967, 947, 963, 1029, 1073-75, 1113, 1161
 French—Commission to M. Auvray, 311. Crusade Dis-
 covered, 265. Louvre Exhibition, 194. Arrival of the
 Expeditives—Improvements in Paris, 419. M. Jourdain's
 Mission to Africa, 442. Statue of Joan of Arc—Meteoro-
 logical Phenomenon, 489. Discovery in Royal Library,
 Paris, 552. Honours, 571. Improvements in Paris, Gaston
 Sazac, 572. *Revue Penitentielle*, 634. Louvre Galleries,
 634. Restorations at Church of Saint Nicolas des Champs,
 674. Prizes of French Academy, 699. M. de Solmin-
 chon, 739. Du Sommerard Museum, &c., 907. Inun-
 dations in France—Medal in Honour of Queen's Visit to
 France, 1028. Commission to Search Greek Libraries,
 1048. Musical and Theatrical—17, 39, 64, 90, 117, 139,
 164, 214, 241. 'Les Burgraves', 265. 'Charles Six', 292;
 341, 419, 462, 533, 635, 657, 699, 909, 925, 946-7, 964,
 967, 1010, 1029, 1073, 1161.
 Foreign—Russian Honours to Mrs. Robertson, 39.
 Rome, 63. Paganini—German Paintings for Ossett, 139.
 Fall of Tower at Westzaan, 140. Archaeological Institution,
 Rome, 821—English Artists at Rome, 1028. Com-
 pletion of Duomo at Florence, Berlin, 64, 89—Portrait
 Gallery at, 191—Pageant at, 241. Pictures, 341, 771,
 419—Midsummer Night's Dream, 964. Music in Italy, 90.
 489. Lessing's Picture of Huss before the Council of
 Katan—Opera in Turkey—Medal to Mohr—Excavating
 Society at Wörgl, 164. Dr. Knorr's Discovery at
 Kanan, 191. Antiquities in Brittany—Copenhagen
 Northern Archaeological Society, 214. Munich—Turin—
 Etruscan Excavations—Music in Germany, Italy, and
 China, 241. St. Petersburg, 264. Bonn—Greece, 314.
 Fresco at Aix-la-Chapelle—Tasso's Oak—Tasso MSS., 341.
 Schwanhauser's Picture of Hercules, 369. Art in Munich,
 392—in Frankfurt, 393. Music Abroad, 393. Excavations
 at Veil, 418, 571. Letter from Boghos Bey, 467. Music
 in Germany, 489. Discovery at Bamberg—Honours at
 Leipzig to Mendelssohn, 514. Royal Library at Munich,
 532. Royal Commissions—Medal to Tagliani—Sig. Per-
 sico's Sculptures—Thorwaldsen's Collection—The Etrus-
 can Museum Gregoriarum—Russian Report on Plague,
 594. Petrarch's Tomb at Arqua, 611. Bruges—Palermo—
 Tribune of Galileo, 634. Foreign Works of Art, 652.
 Athens—Göttingen—Opera at St. Petersburg, 653. Mu-
 nich, 674. Carlsruhe—Prussian Expedition to Caucasus
 —M. Gade, 675. Dante's Letters, 698. Festivals at Ros-
 tock and Dresden—Legacy to Mr. W. Irving, 717. Tiedge
 Society in Germany, 757. Cabinet of Coins at St. Peters-
 burg—Medical Commission from the Russian Government,
 771. Venice—Art in Antwerp, 821. Dresden, 845. Belgium
 —Frankfort, 869. Etruscan—Monuments—Library of Dr.
 Gesenius, 885. Monuments, 907. Italian Scientific Con-
 gress (Lucca), 907. (Milan) 1029. Prof. von Raumer, 907.
 Sumptuary Association at Nuremberg, 925. Pyrenees,
 947. Music at Naples, Milan, Munich, Vienna, and
 Leipzig, 967. Music in Germany and Italy—Prussian
 Honours to French Men of Letters, 1010. Scientific Con-
 gress at Stockholm, 1029. Lending Libraries in Leipzig,
 1049. Sale of Cardinal Fesch's Gallery—Washington Me-
 morial at New York, 1072. Foreign Musical News, Stock-
 holm—German Literary Intelligence, 1073. Madrid,
 1093, 1113. Cairo—Berlin, 1161
 Graham on Cold Water System, 509
 Grahame on American Slavery, 505
 Granville's Spas Revisited, 1004
 Grave Digger, 1132
 Gravesend, History of, by Cruden, 1149
 Gray's Distress of Nations, 589
 Gray's Figures of Molluscous Animals, 548
 Gray's Hist. of Etruria, 623
 Greatrex's Leisure Hours, 529
 Greece, Ancient, Manners of, by St. John, 29, 56
 Gregory on Eruptive Fevers, 754
 Greek Books: Aristophanes' 'Birds', by Blaydes, 109—
 Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology, Dictionary,
 483; Junius on Verb, 754
 Green's Lectures on Beauty and Expression, 1108, 1134
 Griffin (Gerald), Life of, 1019
 Griffith's Chemistry of Four Ancient Elements, 770
 Griselida, by Frederick Halm, 175
 Groves about Stoddart and Conolly, 754 [see Stoddart]
 Guiana Expedition, [see Schomburgk]
 Guide-Books and Hand-Books: To Wicklow, by
 Fraser, 37; Hampton Court, Felix Sumnerly, 548;
 British and Foreign Traveller's, 609; Canterbury, by
 Felix Sumnerly, 629; To Hayling, 651; Dodd's Days at
 the Factories, 670; Handbook of Taste, by Fabius Pictor,
 689; For Central Italy, 730; For France, 731; Davies's
 View of Cheltenham, 713; Black's England and Wales,
 724; New Torquay, 798. Reading Post-office Directory
 —Robertson's, 901
 Guide to Service—Banker's Clerk, 712
 Guizot's (Madame) Young Student, 1008
 Guiliam's Rambles in Isle of Wight, 589
 H—Family, by Bremer, 1022
 Hall's Exposition of Epistle to Philippians, 943
 Halliwell's Nursery Rhymes of England, 409
 Halm's Griselida, 175
 Halpin's Oberon's Vision, 687
 Hampton Court, Works at, 946 [see also 514, 571]
 Hargrave, by Mrs. Trollope, 333
 Harris (Snow) on Thunder Storms, 733
 Hatcher's Original Preface to Hist. of Sarum, 1045
 Hattori's Fidelity, 1160
 Hawker's Reeds shaken with the Wind, 485
 Hay on Harmony of Form, 541, 584
 Hengist's One Word before you Go, 1070
 Henslow's Letters to Farmers of Suffolk, 695
 Roman Antiquities at Rongham, 1069
 Henry's Events of Military Life, 752
 Herbert's Marmaduke Wyvil, 588
 Herbert Tresham, by Rev. J. Neale, 210
 Herschel (Sir John) On the Reflecting Telescope of
 the late Sir W. Herschel, 884, [see p. 866]; Dr.
 Robinson's Reply, 945; Sir J. Herschel's Rejoinder,
 983; Dr. Robinson's Reply, 1027
 Herschel's (Sir John) Account of Explosion at Dover,
 111 [see also Explosion]
 Herschel's (Sir John) Account of Aurora Borealis, 465
 Hewitson's Eggs of British Birds, 901
 Highland Note-Book, by R. Carruthers, 260
 Hindus, the Theogony, by Björnstjerna, 1069
 Hinton's Plea for Liberty of Education, 962
 Hints and Reflections, by Minor Hugo, 754
 Hints of Australian Squatter, by Caswall, 865
 Hints on Formation of Character, 843
 Hints to Servants, 528
 History, Arnold's Modern, 1125
 Historical Records of 1st Madras Europ. Reg. 484
 Historical Sketches, by Ld. Brougham, 977, 1002, 1023
 Hogarth's Pictures, 738, 756, 771
 Holland's Palmists of Britain, 835, 862
 Holt's Wellington, 754
 Holthaus' Wanderings of a Journeyman Tailor, 1151
 Holtzappel on Turning, 156
 Home, The, by Bremer, 457
 Home Treasury, by Felix Sumnerly, 628
 Hone's Eminent Christians, 509
 Hood's Australia and the East, 843
 Hood's Whimsicalities, 1155
 Hope (The) that is in Us, 1008
 Hopkins's Philosopher's Stone, 1160
 Horne's Orion, 585
 Horner (Francis), Memoirs of, by Horner, 251, 281
 Howard (Professor) Lectures on Painting, 181, 235,
 285, 335, 413, 461
 Howard's Lectures on Meteorology, 628
 Howell's Life—Westminster Abbey, 670
 Howell's Seven Poems, 509
 Huber's English Universities, 838
 Hughman's Foil, 651
 Hugo's (Victor) Rhine, 754, trans. by Aird, 843
 The Burgraves, 459
 Hunt's (Leigh) Romances of Real Life, 570
 Hymns for Christian Church and Home, 259
 Iliad, by Chapman, edit. by Dr. Taylor, 569
 Index Geologicus, by Bartlett, 882
 Index to Tracts for Times, by Rev. G. Croly, 61
 India, Stranger in, by Johnson, 609
 —(Upper), Davidson's Travels, 976
 Influence of Respect for Outward Things, 895, 921
 Ingemann's King Eric, trans. by Chapman, 629
 Insanity, Plea of, in Criminal Cases, by Winslow, 253
 Institute of the Fine Arts, 738, 1137
 Intimidation, by Cato the Censor, 14
 Inventor's Manual, by Danson and Dempsey, 754
 Ireland, Native and Saxon, by O'Connell, 176
 Ireland and its Rulers, 960
 —Travels in, by Kohl, 917, 937, 907, 1130
 Irish Archaeological Society: Banquet of Dun na
 n-gedh, 227; Tracts relating to Ireland, 621; Tribes
 and Customs of Hy-Many, 881
 Irish Sketch-Book, by M. A. Titmarsh, 455
 Irwell, and other Poems, by A., 629, 700
 Isthmus of Panama, 17, 638, 675, 947, 1093
 Jack's Edition of Life at Sea, 981
 Jamaica, Past and Present State, by Philippo, 955
 James's Forest Days, 61
 —Life of Cœur-de-Lion, 503
 —The False Heir, 508
 —Arabella Stuart, 1159
 Jay on Negro Emancipation, 505
 Jay's War and Peace, 259
 Jeffrey's Contributions to Edin. Review, 1083, 1128
 Jeffries's Views of the Statics of Human Chest, 259
 Jenkins's Plea for Christian Peace, 735
 Jerrold's Punch's Letters to His Son, 133
 Jessie Phillips, by Mrs. Trollope, 956
 Jesuits and their Principles, by Dalton, 569
 —Moral and Political Discipline of, by Pascal, 156
 John of Hapsburg, by Lewis, 177
 Johnson's Stranger in India, 609
 Jones on Annuities and Reversionary Payments, 284
 Jones's Hist. of Ancient America, 607
 Josiah, 211
 Josephine, by Eaton, 211
 Judaism, Modern, by Margoliouth, 980
 Jurymen's Legal Hand-Book, by Cornish, 710
 Kelly's Sabbath Evening Readings, 259
 Kennedy's Poems, 1160
 Khiva, Journey from Herat to, by Abbott, 661
 Kitto's Cyclopedia of Biblical Literature, 650
 King Eric, by Ingemann, trans. by Chapman, 629
 King Henry the Second, 765
 Knitting, Netting, and Crotchet, 143
 Knox's Day Dreams, 437
 Kohl's Austria, 789, 840
 —Ireland, 917, 937, 997, 1130
 Krasinski's Polish Aristocracy, 630
 Kugler's Lecture on Church Architecture, 260
 La Croix's Mexico, Guatemala, and Peru, 601
 La Mont's Grave of Genius, 981
 Lamont's France, 1154
 Langdon's 10,000 Things relating to China, 105
 Last Ball, The, by G. Soane, 61
 Last of the Barons, by Sir E. L. Bulwer, 205
 Lathbury's Memorials of Ernest the Pious, 901
 Latin School Books: Gibson's Eclogæ Lucretianæ—
 Riddle's Diamond Latin and English Dictionary,
 570; Latin Governess, by Freese, 754
 Latter's Power of Conscience, 670
 Lauder's (Sir T. D.) Royal Progress in Scotland, 708
 Lauringtons, The, by Mrs. Trollope, 1107
 Law of Distress for Rent, 735
 Law, Grandeur of, by Foss, 502
 Law's Address to the Clergy, 669
 Lawrance's (Miss) Woman in England, 151
 Lawson's Scottish Episcopal Church, 150
 Leatham's Oliver Cromwell, 177
 Lee's Medical Institutions in France, &c., 308
 Lee's (Rebecca) Verses, 14
 Legendary Rhymes, by Charnock, 651
 Legends and Traditional Stories, 1045
 Leisure Hours, by Greatrex, 529
 Lemon's Original Poems and Songs, 14
 Lennox's (Lord William) Tuft-Hunter, 178
 Lepsius' (Dr.) Prussian Scientific Expedition to Egypt,
 39, 189, 214, 268, 487, 611, 671, 717, 770, 844, 884
 Lerebours' Photography, 941
 Letter-Writing, Hist. of, by Roberts, 875
 Lever's Our Mass, 10
 Lewis's John of Hapsburg, 177
 Liebig's Organic Chemistry, 14
 Life Assurance and Annuity Tables, by Sang, 108
 Light Dragon, 1130
 Light from Human Subject, by Sir H. Marsh, 569
 Lights and Shadows of Whigs and Tories, 234
 Lindo's Conciliator of Manasseh Ben Israel, 259
 L'Instant on Prejudices of Whites against Blacks, 505
 Literature, Association for Protection of, 489
 —Hist. of, by Boyd, 708
 Literary Ladies of England, by Mrs. Elwood, 13
 Livingston on Doctrine of Imputation, 843
 Lloyd's Calm Inquiry, 589
 Loch's Campaign in China, 605
 Locke, Works of, ed. by St. John, 669
 Logic, System of, by Mill, 1101
 Londonderry, Geology of, by Portlock, 651
 Longfellow's Poems on Slavery, 330
 Lord Dacre of Gilsland, by Stewart, 1008
 Loudon on Laying-out of Cemeteries, 567
 Love and Literature, by Story, 235
 Love Gift, 260
 Lowe's Fishes of Madeira, 901
 Lucretia, by Ponsard, 392, 749
 Lunacy, Law of, 509
 Lycian Expedition, 739, 756, 1093
 Maberly's Melanthe, 307
 Macaulay's Essays, 302
 M'Cormac's Methodus Medendi, 260
 M'Gillivray's Hist. of Molluscous Animals, 901
 Mackay (Lieut.-Gen.) Life of, by Mackay, 432
 M'William's Medical Hist. of Niger Expedition, 603
 Macnamara's Peace Permanent and Universal, 943
 Madden's United Irishmen, 581
 Madras, Letters from, 568
 Magic and Merismism, 569
 Maid of the Hallig, 548
 Man of the People, by Rosenberg, 438
 Man-of-War's Man, 364
 Mangin's Voice from Holy Land, 793
 Manners' (Lord J.) Plea for National Holidays, 102
 Manual of Devotions for Holy Communion, 735
 Manzoni's Pillar of Infamy, 304
 Maps: Wyld's Phenomena of Universe of Stars, 630;
 Chart of the British Empire—Buckman's Chart of Cote-
 ward Hills, 712; Kombs's Ethnographical Map of Europe
 —Middleton's Modern Child's Atlas—Coastal Atlas, 725;
 Wyld's Wine District of Alto-Douro—Sandwich Islands,
 1107; Bauerkeller's Europe in Relief—Dobb's England and
 Wales, in Relief, 566; Wyld's Canada and Oregon, 346
 Mark's Narrative, 754
 Marmaduke Wyvil, by H. W. Herbert, 588
 Margoliouth on Modern Judaism, 980
 Markland's Remarks on English Churches, 1068
 Marprelate's (Martin) Epitome, 1008
 Marryat's Violet, Letter from Mr. Falconer, 1069
 Marsh on Evolutions of Light, 569
 Martin's Vagaries, 901
 Martineau's Endeavours after a Christian Life, 712
 Maslen on Improvement of our Towns, 734
 Mathematician, by Davies, Rutherford, &c., 1133
 Matter on Morals and Legislation, 863
 Maynard's Records of Scenery, 1107

Mazure's Hist. of Bearn and Basque Country, 101
Mechanical Philosophy, by Carpenter, 604

Medical Books: 1. Dangerous Diseases of England, by East—Irritation of Spinal Nerves, by Riadore, 37; Views of Statics of Human Chest, by Jeffries, 259; Medico-Legal Medendy, by McCormac—Enlarged Tonsil, by Yearley—Pulmonary Consumption by Cook, 260; Medical Institutions, by Lee, 308; Diseases of the Skin, by Burgess, 364; Cold-Water System, by Graham—Cold-Water Cure, by Beamish—Hydropathy, by Schleimer, 569; Cretinism, by Twining, 566 [see also p. 1050]; Medical Hist. of Niger Expedition, by M'William, 603; African Intermittent Fever, by Pritchett, 694; Spasm, Langour, and Palsy, by Wilson, 711; British Pharmacy, by Bell—Todd's Encyclopædia of Anatomy—Copeland's Dictionary of Practical Medicine, 735; Gout, Rheumatic Fever, by Todd—Eruptive Fevers, by Gregory, 754; Feigned and Pseudo Diseases, by Gavin, 787; Brighton and its Three Climates, by Wigan, 901; Stomach and Brain, by Somme—Climate of New Zealand, by Thompson, 944

Mediterranean Sketches, by Lord F. Egerton, 104

Melanthe, by Mrs. Maberly, 307

Melloni on Chemical Coloration, 385

Men and Women, 1160

Meredith, by Lady Blessington, 650

Merivale on Colonization, 359

Meteorological Journal for Dec. 1842, 15; Jan. 109; Feb. 211; March, 334; April, 438; May, 549; June, 630; July, 713; Aug., 818; Sept. 902; Oct., 932

Meteorological Observations made at Royal Society for 37 successive hours, by Mr. Robertson, commencing 6 A.M., March 21st, 285; June 21st, 589; Sept. 21st, 882

Meteorology, Howard's Lectures on, 628

Metropolitan Improvements—Meeting of Society—Thames Embankment, 164, 196, 717; Lord Lincoln's Letter, 1076; Cemeteries, 348, 567; Earl of Lincoln's Bill, 445; Deputation, 513; Proposed Improvements, 517, 1014; Trees in City, 1026; Letter from an Inhabitant of St. Martin's Court, 1052

Methuen's Poems, 865

Mexico, Conquest of, by Prescott, 973, 1005

Mexico, Guatemala and Peru, by Lacroix, 607

Mexico, Life in, by Madame Calderon de la Barca, 78, 106, 131, 153

Millford Malvoisin, by Paget, 14

Mills' System of Logic, 1101

Mills' Stage Coach, 769

Miller's Godfrey Malvern, 570

Miller's Christian Mother, 61

Milton's Practical Bee-keeper, 843

Minasi's Philosophical Diagrams—Mechanics, 733

Ministerial Responsibility, by Mohl, 235

MISCELLANEA: [Such paragraphs only as have a permanent interest are referred to.]

On the Numerical Figures, (from a Correspondent)—Price of a

Sensation—Protection from Accident by deleterious Gas, 21.

Highland Mary—Organic Remains, 72. A New Variety—

Donkey Sedans, 6. Archives of Catalonia—Ancient Gaulish

Monuments, 62—Remarkable Phenomena, 92, 373—Source of

Fat in Animals, 93. Engravings, 17, 1033. Solar Eclipse,

Letter from Dr. John, (see also pp. 18, 41, 142)—An Av-

lanche—Mount Etna, 142. Splendid Meteor—Julia Casare, 166

—Bottle Papers and Bottle Chatter, 200. Manuscripts—German

Railroads, 32. Meteorology, 386. German Journalism—

Silk—Extraordinary Bar of Iron, 200. Railway Accidents,

293. Meteorological Phenomena, Letter from Mr. Stevenson,

348. Duplicate Poets—Hampton Court—Education, Science

and Art, 372. Working Locomotive—Common Road Steam Travel-

ling, 422. Stone Coffins on the Roman Railroad, 445. Police Por-

traits, Letter from a Subscriber, 470. Double Railroad, Letter from

S. & H., 470 (see also p. 470). Wine—Another Comet,

470. The Speaking Machine, Letter from S., 494. Poetry and Paint-

ing, 516. Census of Ireland, 517. Antiquities in the Saone,

534. Life Preserver, 537. Statistics of Pauperism—Gaulish

Antiquities—Roman Antiquities, 574. Printing—Ship-build-

ing—Stained Glass in St. Margaret's, Westminster, 508.

Moorthills—Roman Theatre, 611. New Aeneasometer 638

Lightning at Strasbourg—Bundestorm, 67. Electro-

type, 708 (see also Letter from Alpha, 742). Oil on Water, 700.

Cast Iron Buildings in China, 718. Fire-proof Powder Maga-

zine—Thunderstorm, 741. Patents in France—Chapel at Sa-

blonville, 750. Gold Dust, 822. Postage in Russia, 845. New

Wood Pavement, 870. The Pacific—Antiquarian Discoveries—

Portable Lighthouse, 886. Great Mass of Native Gold—Sci-

entific and Literary Societies, 908. Dynasty of Nancho—Man-

ufactures—Music in Belgium, 909. Run-away Horses, Letter from

Mr. Winkus, 925 (see p. 908). Fragments from Pope—Railways

—Coins, 926. Archaeological Discoveries—Femle Académie

Française, 948. Extinguishing Fires, 949. New Royal Ex-

change—Self-priming Gun—Park at Birkenhead—Antiquities of

Ceylon, 988. Meteor Phenomena, 989. The Great Lias—

Electro-Lace, 1014—Stained Glass, 1014 (see also Letter from

Mr. Bray, 1048).—Stybarrow Crags—Helics at a Discount, 1030.

Antiquities near Gainsborough, 1032. Rev. Sydney Smith, 1076

(see also 1063). Hurricane at Carthagena, 1078. New Black

Colour, 1094 (see also p. 1116). Eruption of Etna, 1094. The

Fane of the Shirt, by Mr. Hood, 1116. Broadway Church—

Creta Lavie—Thompson's Fire Escape—Aveney's Twelfth

Night Characters, 1140. Ancient Ruins—Eruption of Mount

Etna—Liber Scholasticus, 1164

Mishna, Eighteen Treatises from, 127

Moehler's Symbolism, 981

Meris (Lake), by Linant de Bellefonds, 1063 [see

also 672, 770]

Mohammed, Life and Doctrines by Weil, 1037

Mohl on Ministerial Responsibility, 235

Molluscous Animals, by Gray, 548

Molluscous Animals, by M'Gillivray, 901

Monetary and Metrical Systems, Proposed Alteration,

389; Letter from A. B. G., 416; Letter from H.,

470; Letter from G., 638

Montaigne, the Works of, by Hazlitt, 763, 814

Monumental Sculpture, Letter of R. Westmacott, 672

Monuments and Statues—in Westminster Abbey, 63,

112, 214, 269, 672; new Monuments at Rome, 140;

Wilkie Statue, 164; to Bach, 214; Wellington Statues, 552, 594, 611; at Inspruck and Wurtzburg, 553; to Milton, 572; to Hampden, 593, 611; to Sir Sydney Smith, 593; to Rembrandt, 594; to Ram-mohun Roy, 634; to Vanhaen, 634; to Mrs. Siddons, 652; at Spire, Versailles, Venice, Florence, Antwerp, 757; of Margrave of Bayreuth, 821; to Butler, 907; to Earl of Leicester, 1049; to Nelson, 552, 1092. Debate in House of Commons, 756; Public, 869, 1113

Moral Strength, by Mousley, 865

Morals and Legislation, by Matter, 863

Morehead on Passages in St. Paul's Epistles, 670

Mormons, by Caswall, 280

Morning and Evening Service, 1008

Morris's Catalogue of British Fossils, 901

Möser on Light and Vision, 458; Prater's Experiments

and Observations on Möser's Discovery, 483; Letter

from Mr. R. Hunt, 557; Letter from Mr. Prater, 598

Moseley's Engineering and Architecture, 206

Moseley's Protestant Mission to China, 37

Mott's Last Days of Francis I., 1160

Mousley on Moral Strength, 865

Müller's Attica and Athens, by Lockhart, 29

Munden (J. S.), Memoirs of, 1069

Municipal Records of York, Extracts from, 770

Murdoch's Sketches of Modern Philosophy, 754

Museum, British, 22; Synopsis of, 571, 677; Façade

of, 771, 947; Our Own National Museum, 906;

Letter from * * 988, Letter from Amateur, 1052;

Letter from R. Inglis, 1094; the Hercules at, 963

MUSIC—[only the principal New Publications are re-

ferred to.]

Contemporary Musical Composers—A. F. Lindblad, 'Lieder,'

220. Franz Liszt, 'Années de Pèlerinage Suisse,' 515.

Louis Spohr, 613 [see also 637, 653, 965]. Music in the

North of Europe—Weyse, by A. Dane, 1069

New Publications—Mendelssohn's Third Symphony arranged

as a Duett, 20. Chopin's 'Allegro de Concert,' 346.

Mendelssohn's 'Choruses of the Antigone,' 536. Lodge's

'Mass in D,' 740. Oakley's 'Laudes Diurnæ'—Motett

Society's Publications—Paulus and Hymns of the Durham

Galilee—Marshall's 'Art of Reading Church Music'—

Hamilton's 'Sacred Harmony,' 'Manual for Chanting'—

Horsley's 'Sonata for Piano-forte and Violoncello,' 741.

Mendelssohn's 'Sonata in E Major,' 742. Turtle and

Taylor's 'People's Music Book'—Loder and Rimbault's

edit. of 'Music in Macbeth,' 821. Hatton's 'Skylark' and

'A Way to the silvery stream'—Benedict's 'Alone'—Loder's

Songs—Songs from Text of Shakespeare—Knight's 'Happy

Day'—Crouch's Songs—Songs from 'Sappho'—Maravilla's

Songs—Gems of German Song—Loder's 'Whole Art of

Bowing,' 832. Mendelssohn's 'Duo for Piano-forte and

Violoncello,' 925. Spohr's 'First Piano-forte Sonata'—

Heller's 'Quatre Morceaux de Salon,' 965. 'Orpheus,'

No. 13, 1013. Scarbriack's 'Mass for Four Voices'—

Walmley's 'Sacred Songs'—Benedict's 'Rondino,' 1140.

Concerts—Bonomi's Classical Chamber, 44, 88. Brahms' (G. M. C. Brahms) 142, 516, (Hamilton Brahms) 967. Ancient

Concerts—first, 287, second, 315, third, 420, fourth,

444, fifth, 493, sixth, 534, seventh, 534, eighth, 534. Sac-

red Harmonic Society—Crotch's Anthem—Beethoven's

Mass—Mendelssohn's Loggessang, 268; The Messiah, 371;

Fall of Babylon, 699; Deborah, 1029. Philharmonic Con-

certs—first, 293, second, 346, third, 420, fourth, 469, fifth,

516, sixth, 534, seventh, 597, eighth, 657. New Directors,

608. Music for the People—First Choral Meeting, 239;

Second, 594; Great Meeting at Manchester, 572. Western

Madrigal Society, 371 [see also 419]. Hagrove's Séances

Musicales, 371; second do, 516. Mudie's, 444; second

do, 516; third do, 573. Muhlenfeld's, 444. Society of

Female Musicians, 469. Miss Steele's—Venus's—Miss

Dolly and Miss Orger's, 489. Madame Caradori Allan's—

Miss Bruce Wyatt and Mr. H. Gear's, 516. Everett's

first, 534; third ditto, 654; fourth ditto, 717. Fittsch,

534, 574, 638, and Hallé's, 534. Roedel and Hausmann's,

534. John Parry's, 556. Mad. Dulcken's, 557. Miss

Binckes's, 573 [see also p. 594]. Holmes's—C. Potter's—

Willy's—Benedict's, 573. Miss Henrietta Roedel's, 611.

Charles Hallé's, 637. Dr. Spohr's—'The Fall of Babylon,'

633 [see also 699]. Mrs. Aveling Smith and Mr. J. Haigh's—

Emilia's—Miss Dinah Farmer's—Herr Rosen's, 654.

French Matinée—for German Hospital—Herr Ernst, 676.

Mrs. Hampton's, 700. Rousset's Matinée—Beer-

halter's Matinée, 717. Society of British Musicians—first

Soirée, 925; second, 964; fifth, 1094. Madame Dulcken's

Soirées, first, 1051; second, 1116. Concerts in Crosby

Hall, 1116. Wilson's—Horncastle's—Crouch's—the Misses

Fraser's—Carpenter and Jones's—Leo's—Templeton's, and

H. Phillips's Musical and Anecdotal Entertainments, 1116

Muzzey's Young Maiden, 695

My Sonnets, 1133

Napier's Reminiscences of Syria, 753

Nash's Hist. of War in Afghanistan, 708

Neale and Webb's Symbolism of Churches, by Du-

randus, 896

Neale's Herbert Tresham, 210

Neale's Songs and Ballads for the People, 545

Neander's Life of St. Bernard, by Wrench, 86

Ned Myers, by J. F. Cooper, 1039

Needlework, Fancy—Plain, 149

Nelson's Lot of Mortality, 37

Nevins's Thoughts on Popery, 843

New Purchase, by Carlton, 253

Newton's Spring Flowers, 509

New York, Letters from, by Mrs. Child, 880, 893

New York, Natural Hist. of, 766

Niger Expedition, Medical Hist. by M'William, 603

Night and Day Thoughts, 334

Nineveh, Ancient, Letter from M. Mohl, 632; [see

also 594, 697, 925]

Notes during Ramble in the East, by Baynes, 233

Northbrook's Treatise against Dicing, 864

North Pole, Voyage by Capt. Beechey, 327, 361

Nurse, The, 149

Nursery Rhymes of England, by Halliwell, 409

OBITUARY: Archdeacon Wraugham, 17; Mr. Hof-

land, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Vaughan, 39; Herr Rochlitz, 62;

Baron La Motte Fouqué, 159; Mrs. Seyffarth, 164; Mr.

M. J. Quin, M. d'Adelung, 214; Cardinal Guisot, 214;

Prince Colocotroni, Le Prince de Chimay, M. Deleau-

pret, 265; Dr. Southey, 288; Sir John Robison, 289;

Sir R. K. Porter, 289; M. Houefft, Petronilla Moens,

Mensen-Ernt, 314; M. Bulard, Herr Seydelmann, 341;

Mrs. Hay, Mrs. Honey, 348; Rev. J. Allen, Mr. H.

Thomson, Count Ribbing, 368; Baron de Stieglitz,

Mauguin, 393; Duke of Sussex, 418; Mr. W. S. Rose,

441; Herr Lanner, 442; Mr. William Wallace, Admiral

Wulff, 467; Mr. Thomas, 489; Mr. Apperley, M. Gautier

de l'Are, 513; Mr. W. H. Pyne, 553; Prof. Kidd, 572; Mr.

Noah Webster, 594; Alexander Bethune, Mr. John Mur-

ray, 610; Dr. Hahnemann, Mdlle. Lenormand, 633; Mr.

Moritt, 677; Mr. Washington Allston, 698; Mr. Elton,

Pickett's Address to Royal Academy, 962
 Pictorial History of England, 651
 Pictorial Museum of Animated Nature, 156, 284
 Picture Collections, 391
 Pierre Penilles' Supplication to the Devil, by Nash, 77
 Pillar of Infamy, by Manzoni, 304
 Piazzi (Mrs.), Love-Letters of, 259
 Plea for National Holidays, by Lord J. Manners, 102
 Poetry for the Million, by Peter Prigings, 484
 Polish Aristocracy, by Krasinski, 630
 Polylogy, by Chulow, 329
 Pombal, Memoirs of, by Smith, 666
 Ponsard's Lucretia, 392, 749
 Popular Cyclop. of Nat. Science: Carpenter, 604, 676
 Popular Tales and Legends, 1045
 Porter's Some Irish Questions Discussed, 712
 Postage Reports and Returns, 39, 265, 1156
 Postans' Observations in Sindh, 708
 Potter's Charnwood Forest, 34
 Prairies, Great Western, Farnham's Travels, 460, 1010
 Prater on Moser's Discovery [see Moser].
 Pratt's Poems, 735
 Prentiss's Tintern, Stonehenge, &c., 548
 Prescott's Hist. of Conquest of Mexico, 973, 1005
 President's Daughters, by Bremer, 816
 Preston House of Correction, Chaplain's Report, 1023
 Primitive Tradition, by Archdeacon Williams, 712
 Prism of Thought, by Baroness de Calabrella, 329
 Richard's General History of Animalcules, 284
 Ritchett on African Intermittent Fever, 694
 Protestant Non-Conformity, by Vaughan, 609
 Proverbial Philosophy, by Tupper, 329
 Psalmists of Britain, by Holland, 835, 862
 Pugin's Revival of Christian Architecture, 643
 Punch's Letters to His Son, by Jerrold, 133
 Puritan Discipline Tracts, 751
 Puss in Boots, 1140
 Pyrenees, by Lady Chatterton, 430
 ——— by Paris, 525, 546
 Queens of France, by Mrs. Bush, 37
 Questions on Tyder's History, by Lenny, 548
 Railway Making, Examples of, 325, 433
 Railway Reform, 731
 Raimbach, Memoirs of, 893, 922
 Rambles of Emperor Ching Tih, 429
 Ramsay on Human Happiness, 235
 Ranke's Ottoman and Spanish Empires, Hist. of Popes,
 trans. by Kelly, 793
 Raymond, 308
 Raymond's Life of Elliston, 1133
 Reade's Sacred Poems, 1160
 Reasoning, Easy Lessons on, 1101
 Records, Public, 39, 214, 264, 340, 467, 594, 987
 Rector's Note-Book, by Mrs. Stanford, 630
 Reeds Shaken with the Wind, by Hawker, 485
 Reeve's Conchologia Systematica, 364
 Renewal, The, by Shaw, 529
 Repeal Songs of Munster, 878, 899
 Report of Commissioners of Education in Ireland, 734
 Report of Commissioners on Employment of Women
 and Children in Agriculture, 588
 Return of the Druses, by Browning, 608
 Reuchlin, Life of, by Barham, 569
 Reynolds's (Sir Joshua) Discourses, by Burnet, 747, 768
 Rhone, Darro, and Guadalquivir, by Mrs. Romer, 566
 Riadore on Irritation of Spinal Nerves, 37
 Right Way to Decide, 943
 Ritchie's Columbiad, 735
 Rivers, Brooks on the Improvement of, 897
 Robert's Hist. of Letter-Writing, 875
 Robert's (Mary) Ruins and Old Trees, 962
 Robertson's Letters from South America, 254
 Robin Hood, by Stephen Percy, 1045
 Robinson's (Dr.) Reply to Sir John Herschel, 945,
 [see also pp. 866, 884, 983, 1027]
 Rohn's Historico-Geographical Acc. of Palestine, 735
 Rome, Arnold's History of, 1125
 Rome under Paganism and the Popes, 663
 Romer's Rhone, Darro, and Guadalquivir, 566
 Rosenberg's Man of the People, 438
 Rose of Woodlee, by Bainbridge, 629
 Royal Academy Lectures: Prof. Cockerell's on Archi-
 tecture, 17, 37, 61, 86, 134, 158, 185; Sir R. Westma-
 cott's on Sculpture, 157, 212, 260, 308, 365, 439; Prof.
 Howard's on Painting, 181, 235, 285, 335, 413, 461;
 Prof. Green's on Beauty and Expression, 1108, 1134
 Royal Patronage and Bounty to Decayed Authors, 1092
 Royal Progress in Scotland, by Sir T. D. Lauder, 708
 Rural Chemistry, by Solly, 865
 Ruth, 630
 Rutland Papers, The, 83
 St. Bernard, Neander's Life of, trans. by Wrench, 86
 St. Jean's Sketches from Travelling Journal, 712
 St. John's Ancient Greece, 29, 56
 ——— Sir Cosmo Digby, 962
 St. Paul's, 868 [see also 924]
 St. Vincent (Adm.), Tucker's Life, 1061, 1085, 1103
 Sale's (Lady) Journal in Afghanistan, 351, 408

Sam Slick in England, 622, 648
 Sampson on Criminal Jurisprudence, 253
 Sandwith's Two Lectures, 695
 Sang's Life Assurance and Annuity Tables, 108
 Sanderson's Thoughts on Sickness, 901
 Savonarola, Life of, 523
 Saxony, Constitutional Charter of, 981
 Schefer's (Leopold) Vigils, 732 [see also p. 314]
 Schlemmer on Hydropathy, 509
 Schomburgk's Expedition, 215, 241, 529, 1091, 1093, 1111
 Scientific Wanderings, by Fraser, 589
 Scottish Episcopal Church, Hist. of, by Lawson, 150
 Sculpture, by Sir Richard Westmacott, 157, 212, 260,
 Scottish Heiress, The, 235 [308, 363, 439]
 Scottish Song, Book of, 939
 Scotland, Wilson's Voyage round, 55, 84
 Scott's Dora Marcelli, 509
 Scripture, Intellectual and Catholic Poetry of, 981
 Scrope's Life of Lord Sydenham, 685, 711
 Scrope's Salmon Fishing, 481
 Selwyn and his Contemporaries, edit. by Jesse, 501,
 526, 1063, 1089
 Shakespeare's Female Characters, 110; Lady Constance,
 137; Female Characters in King John, Present
 Acting, 161; Characters in Cymbeline—Imogen and
 Pothumus, 239, 261; Imogen and Pisanio, 309; On
 the Acting of the Play, 366
 Shakespeare Society: Anniversary Meeting of, 418;
 Halliwell's only known MS. of Shakespeare's Plays,
 485; Pierce Penilles' Supplication to the Devil,
 77; Timon, 33; [see also Letter from G. D. 117];
 Oberon's Vision by Rev. J. Halpin, 687; Treatise
 against Dicing, &c. by Northbrooke, 864; The
 Chester Plays, edit. by J. Wright, 1153
 Shakespeare, Knight's Cabinet, 109, 260, 712, 1107
 ———, Knight's, 33; Biography, 707
 Shakespeare, Shakespeare Autograph, 514; Family
 Papers, 552; Note from a Correspondent, 717
 ——— Religious Sentences from, 727
 ——— Plays and Poems, ed. by Collier, 33, 707
 Shaw's Renewal, 529
 Shepherd's (The) Evening Tales, 61
 Sheelbred's Rollin Remodelled, 734
 Sicilian Vespers, Amari's War of, 647
 Sideral Heavens, Theory of Structure of, 284
 Sidney's Diary of Times of Charles the Second, 543
 Signourney, Mrs., and Mrs. Southey, 139, 288, 340,
 369, 418, 483, 552
 Simmons's Legends and Lyrics, 484
 Simpson's Discoveries on North Coast of America, 725
 Sinde, March through, Allen's Diary, 919
 Sindh, Postans' Personal Observations in, 703
 Sir Cosmo Digby, by St. John, 962
 Sir Michael Paulet, by Miss Pickering, 259
 Slater's Little Princes, 1140
 Slavery; Bandinel's Hist.—Alexander's Letters on
 Slave Trade—American Slave Trade, by Graham
 —Negro Emancipation, by Jay—Prejudices of
 Whites, by S. T. Instant—Channing's Posthumous
 Letters, 505
 Smith and Anthon's Statement of Facts, 793
 Smith's Diagram to define Lives of Patriarchs, 1107
 Smith's Economy of Nations, 109
 Smith's Memoirs of Marquis of Pombal, 666
 Smiths, The, 694
 Smyth's Biographical Illustrations of St. Paul's, 981
 Soane's Last Ball, 61
 Soane Museum, 923
 SOCIETIES: [The more important Papers only are
 referred to.]
 Asiatic Society—Agassiz on Glaciers, 243; Buckland
 on New Zealand Bird—On Fossil Specimens, 506; Dau-
 beny on Cretinism, 1050 [see also p. 588]
 Asiatic Society—Newbold on Bhuga of Mahanandi, 64;
 Stevenson on Hindu Literature, 192. Hunter on the
 Ithlis, 242, 265. Stephenson on Buddhistical and Jain
 Literature of India, 265, 344. Pottinger's Letter from
 China—Postans on the Nile and Indus, 936. Anniversary
 Meeting, 395. Bland on 'Ash Kadeh', 636, 1029, 1073
 Astronomical Society—Baily on the Total Solar Eclipse of
 July, 18. Airy on the same, 41 [see also pp. 117, 142];
 Hansen on the Perturbations of the Planets, 193; An-
 nual Meeting, 344, 442; Baily's Revision of Boundaries
 of Constellations, 534; Simms on Self-acting Circular
 Dividing Engine—Galbraith on Roy's Triangulation, 636;
 1138
 Botanical Society—869, 1011, 1073, 1162
 Cambridge Antiquarian Society—539
 Chemical Society—Graham on the Phosphorus Family of
 Elements—Liebig on Formation of Fat—Playfair on
 Milk, 194, 217
 Electrical Society—91, 244, 371
 Entomological Society—91, 244, 394, 633, 670, 806, 1162
 French Academy of Moral and Political Science, 17, 514,
 553.—Academy of Fine Arts, 17; M. Grisi's Discoveries
 on Veil, 571 [see also p. 418].—Academy of Inscriptions,
 17.—Geographical Society, 17; Bust of Don Henry of
 Portugal, 62.—Paris Academy of Sciences—17, 21, 43,
 64, 68, 116, 195, 220, 268, 316, 341, 372, 396, 445, 493,
 516, 569, 639, 654, 675, 677, 700, 718, 738, 793, 822, 845,
 870, 903, 925, 948, 965, 998, 1013, 1049, 1051, 1078, 1116,
 1164.—Institute—Mr. McCulloch's Election, 164; English
 Associates, 467

SOCIETIES—continued.

Geographical Society—Sutter's Notes on Australia, 64;
 Baron de Bode's Tour in Persia, 114, 164; Schomburgk's
 Journey to Source of Takatu, 215 [see also pp. 341,
 529, 1091, 1093, 1111]; Sterling on Calao—Higgs on
 Rise of Thames—Rawlinson on Comparative Geography
 of Upper India, 265; Allen on Cameroons River and
 Bay of Amboles, 343, 369; Bolander's Paper on Texas,
 442; De Bode's Journey through Country of Manassani,
 490; Anniversary Meeting, 514, 571; Falconer's Notes
 on Texas, 636, 1029; Beke's Notes and Observations in
 Abyssinia, 1049; Schomburgk's Guiana Expedition,
 1093 [see also pp. 215, 241, 529, 1091, 1093, 1111].—Baily
 on Communication between the Atlantic and Pacific, 1093
 [see also pp. 17, 675, 947].—Hamilton on Country be-
 tween Sydney and Moreton Bay, 1093; Beke on the
 Countries south of the Abai, 1134
 Geological Society—Smith on Delta of Ganges—Trimmer
 on Pipes in Chalk—Strickland on Concretions in Isle of
 Man, 18; Sharpe on Bala Limestone—Brodie on Lias
 of Gloucestershire, 40; Strickland on Lias of Glou-
 cestershire, 41; Lyell on Falls of Niagara, 90; Sharpe
 on Silurian Rocks of Westmoreland and Lancashire—
 Stevenson on Stratified Rocks of Berwickshire—Muntell
 on Fossilized Mollusca, 140; Lyell on Tertiary Strata
 in Massachusetts—On Fossil Remains, U.S., 192; Award
 of Wollaston Medals, 214; Sir P. Egerton on Fossil
 Chamaeroids—Pratt on Geology of Bayonne, 215; Pearce
 on a New Encrinurus—On Crinoids—Clarke on Fossil
 Pine Forest in Australia, 265; Brown on Pleistocene
 Deposits, 343; Royle on Tin Mines of Tennessee, 344;
 Austen on District on either side the North Downs of
 Surrey—Robertson on Oolitic Coal-field of Broms, 369;
 Murchison on same, 370; Harkness on Changes in
 Temperature of Earth—Lyell on Fossil Trees in Cum-
 berland, 468; Egerton on some new Ganoid Fishes—
 Gesner on Geology of Nova Scotia—Lyell on Coal For-
 mation of Nova Scotia, 353; Stanger on Geology of
 Western Africa—Wallace on Classification of Granite
 Rocks—Felson on Greensand in Isle of Wight, 572;
 Buckland on Thryasolites—Trevelyan on Scattered
 Rocks in Greece—Kaye on Fossiliferous Beds in South-
 ern India—Simms on Strata in Vicinity of Hythe—
 Fitton's Remarks on Green Sand in Kent and Isle of
 Wight, 635; Forbes on Starfishes—Spratt on Geology
 of Malta and Gozo, 1011; Falconer and Cautley on an
 Anoplotherium, 1050; Sedgwick on Geology of North
 Wales, 1115; Dawson on Carboniferous Rocks of Nova
 Scotia—Henslow on Red Crag at Felixstow, 1162
 Horticultural Society—91, 164, 217, 266, 344, 363, 468, 505,
 533, 739, 870; First Meeting, Chiswick, 469; Second,
 594; 947, 1011
 Institute of British Architects—Wyatt on Restorations at
 Salisbury, 341; Ferrey on Double Staircase at Tam-
 worth, 342 [see also p. 470]; Hoaking on Arched
 Bridges, 514; Donaldson on Houses in Belgian Towns,
 629, 1011; Baily on Foreign Fir and Deals, 1059;
 Cockerell on Church of St. Bartholomew—Papworth
 on Chapel in Cathedral of Lisbon, 1114; Sylvester's
 Process for Waterproofing Stone, 1139
 Institution of Civil Engineers—Davison on Deep Well, 42;
 Mallet on Over-shot Water-wheels, 43; Annual Meeting,
 90; Pole on Steam Engines—Clay's New Mode of
 making Iron, 193; Bremner on Bridge over the Wear—
 Bishop on American Engine, 242-3; Rankine on
 Railway Axles, 243; Rankine on Railway Curves—
 Simms on Application of Horse Power to Water, 266;
 Kreeft on Butterley Iron Works—Oldham on Machine
 for Weighing Sovereigns—Mushet on Experiments at
 Milton Iron Works, 314; Mackain on Glasgow Water-
 Works—Hobson on Artesian Well at Paris—Baker on
 Herr Brendel's Water-Pressure Engine, 570; Simms on
 Bleithighing Tunnel, 419, 443; Clutterbuck on Chalk
 Basin of London, 490; Handcock on Railway Axle,
 Pellatt on Zinc, 491; Mallet on Action of Air on Cast
 Iron and Steel, 515, 554; New Electro-Magnetic Tele-
 graphs, 554; Connerazione, 594; Hurwood on Clearance
 of Water at Ipswich—Taylor on Mining Machine in
 Cornwall—Homersham on Pump-Flaps, 595; Faraday on
 Ventilation in Light Houses, 637 [see also p. 394]; Pole on
 Density and Pressure of Steam, 637; Telford Premiums,
 1130
 Linnean Society—91, 165, 218, 266, 370, 596, 637, 1011, 1073
 Medico-Botanical Society—91, 115, 165, 244, 370, 442, 491,
 535, 596, 637, 1162
 Meteorological Society—267, 491 [1162]
 Microscopical Society—19, 91, 370, 419, 514, 637, 964, 1050,
 Numismatic Society—Annual Meeting, 596, 699, 1073
 Oriental Translation Fund, 242
 Philological Society—194, 243
 Royal Society—Rainey on Motion of Sap—Stark on Nerves
 —Faraday's Researches in Electricity, Eighteenth Series
 —Hall on Iris, 216; Belcher's Tide Observations at
 Tahiti—Hoskins on Phosphatic Calculi, 242; Willis on
 Lymphatic Vessels—Rainey on descending Fluids of
 Plants, 343, 533; Sabine's Contributions to Terrestrial
 Magnetism, 584, 675—Pepps on Respiration of the
 Leaves of Plants, 594; Higgs on Carbon and Nitrogen—
 Heygate on Iodide of Potassium—MacLain on Respi-
 ratory Organs of Animals, 676; New Council, 1072
 Royal Society of Literature—468, 1029
 Royal Institution—Faraday on Light and Ventilation, 394
 [see also p. 637]
 Society of Antiquaries—443
 Society of Arts—91, 115, 193, 218, 266, 345, 394, 420, 491,
 514, 533, 555; Distribution of Prizes, 594; 967, 1011,
 1029, 1073; Johnston on Shipwrecks—Claudet on the
 Densitotype Art, 1139
 Statistical Society—Report of Education Committee on
 London Districts, 114; Tremerehere's Agricultural Sta-
 tistics, 217; Anniversary—Sykes on Statistics of Civil
 Justice in Bengal, 292; Guy on Influence of Seasons on
 Sickness and Mortality—Weld on Railway Accidents,
 419; Passy on Division of Heritable Property, 490, 595,
 Zoological Society—442 [1050]

SOCIETIES—continued.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—Letter of Directions from P. M. T., 671. Preliminary Gossip, 680, 739, 944. Meeting of Gen. Committee and Report, 772. Evening Meeting—President's Address, 780. Treasurer's Report, 781. Meeting of Gen. Com. 782. Meet. of Gen. Com.; Grants of Money, 804. Dr. Robinson's Address, 866 [see also pp. 865, 945, 952, 1027].

SEC. A.—Mathematical and Physical Science.—Robinson on Catalogue of Stars, 772. Powell on Elliptic Polarization of Light—Lloyd on Phenomena of Metallic Reflection—Draper on Change by Exposure to Beams of Sun, 773. Meteorological Observations at Plymouth and Devonport—Nott on New Electrical Machine, 786. Lloyd on Graphical Representation of Apjohn on Barometric Formula, 787. Russell's Report on Tides in Scotland—Hodgkinson on Inelasticity, 790. Robinson on Captive Balloons—Robinson on Fifty Telescope Stars—Brewster's Reports, 799. Report on Reduction of Meteorological Observations (with a diagram)—McCullagh on Theory of Total Reflection, 823. Herschel's Report on Nomenclature of Stars—Lloyd on Magnetic Force—Scoresby on Artificial Magnets, 824. Joule's Galvanometer—Hamilton on Calculus of Probabilities—Hunt on Chances of Rodolia in Dark, 825. Wheatstone on Electro-Magnetic Meteorological Register—Report on Kew Meteorological Observations—Report on Simultaneous Magnetical and Meteorological Observations, 846. Herschel on Photographic Process—Brewster on Action of Oils upon Light—On Iceland Spar—Robinson on Barometric Compensation of Pendulum—Report of Committee on Waves, 847. Larcum on Condensed Maps—Moyes' Thermometrical Observations at Aden—Nott on Terrestrial Magnetism—Green on Specula of Telescopes—Robinson on Index Error of Circle, 848. Knox on Rain in S.W. of Ireland and Suffolk—Brown on Tide at Arbroath—Thomas on Abnormal Tides, 849.

SEC. B.—Chemistry and Mineralogy.—Hunt's New Photographic Process—Hunt on Influence of Light on Plants—Tannan on Limestone—Andrews on Heat of Combination—Spencer on Paracryogen—West on Corrosion of Lead by Water, 774. Kane on Colouring Matters—Draper on Decomposition of Carbonic Acid Gas, 775. Hunt on Influence of Light on Metallic Compounds, 799. Mosander on Cerium, &c.—Tannan's Specimens—Dirks on Production of Smoke, 800. Jennings on Agriculture of Cork—Apjohn on Arsenites, 823. Joule on Magneto-Electricity—Apjohn on Hygrometric Formula—Townsend on Minerals of Cork—Lucas on Axes of Locomotive Engines—Will on Alkalies (with a diagram)—Knox on Iodine and Fluorine—Armstrong on Hydro-Electric Machine, 826.

SEC. C.—Geology and Physical Geography.—Lyll on Appalachian Mountains—Rogers on Earthquakes, 773. Griffith on Direction of Currents, 776. Griffith on Limestone Series of Ireland, 800. Phillips on Ordnance Geological Museum—Binney on New Red Sandstone—Phillips on Stratified Rocks, 801. Murchison on Permian System, as applied to Germany, 802 [see also p. 822]. Hopkins on Glaciers, 802. Report on Earthquakes in Scotland, 803. Williams on Rocks of Lundy Island—Peach on Remains of Fish in Cornwall—Haines on Limestone in Cork—Griffith on Old Red Sandstone—Murchison on Tertiary Basin of Middle Rhine, 827—Relievo Map of England and Wales, 849—Portland on Geology of Corfu—Beaunish on Water in Baltic—Jennings on Geological Phenomena in Cork—Griffith on Shells in Sand in Mayo, 850. Forbes's Report on Mollusca and Radiata of Egean Sea, 867.

SEC. D.—Zoology and Botany.—Miliken on Fructification of Violet—Forbes on Nucleobranchia, 776. Mackay, Hinks, and Allman, on Specimens of Plants—Blackwall on Araneidae—Clarke on Irish Specimens of Linnæa—Allman on *Plumatella repens*, 777. Peach on Marine Testacea—Humphreys on Mollusca of Cork, 778. Hinks on Fuchsia—Report on Zoological Nomenclature, 827. Strickland on Upupa and Ibis—Catalogue of Birds in Corfu and Ionian Islands—Report on Varieties of Human Race—Heath on People of Navigator's Islands—Downen on Common Marigold—Clear on Insects found in Cork—Power on Plants of Cork, 828. Carpenter on Microscopic Structure of Shells, 829. Owen's Report on Mammalia of Great Britain (continued)—Strickland on Insectorial Order of Birds—Allman on Cirropteron—Allman on Six-banded Armadillo—On Irish Zoophytes—On a new Gastropod—Hinks on Uses of Lichens—Waterhouse on Classification of Mammalia, 831. Alder and Hancock on New Mollusca—Thompson on Invertebrate Fauna of Ireland, 853.

SEC. E.—Medical Science.—Olliffe on Disease of Biliary Ducts—Houston on Hemorrhage—Harris on Cure for Anæmia, 778. Pickells on *Eleutheria Crocata*, 779. Houston on Acardiac Fætures—Popham on Gangrene of Lung—Olliffe on Intestinal Obstructions—Erichsen on Introduction of Air into Veins—Cronin on Statistical Results of Amputation—Revan on Tests for Arsenic—Blake on Physiological Action of Medicines, 862.

SEC. F.—Statistics.—Latham on State of Travelling Poor of England—Beaunish's Report of St. Michael's Parish, Cork—Powell's Contributions to Academic Statistics—Taylor on Irish Silk Manufacture—Catlow on Birth and Death—Bullen on Statistics of Kilnurry, 779. Bianconi on Conveyances in Ireland—Taylor on Pauper Lunatics of Ireland—Dowden on Vital Statistics, 803. Lawson on Connection between Statistics and Political Economy—Osborne on Statistics of Lunacy—Report of Census of Ireland for 1841—Mayer on Infant Industrial Schools of Tuscany, 853. O'Flanagan on Blackwater River, 854.

SEC. G.—Mechanical Science.—Ryan on Water as a Moving Power—Russell on Laws of Sound applied to Construction of Buildings (with a diagram), 730, 804—Dirks on Lamps and Gas Burners, 780. Hawkins on Manner of Prime Oil—Taylor on Engine for Draining the Haarlem Lake—Hodgkinson's Report on Elasticity of Solid Bodies, 804. Dirks on Prevention of Smoke—Report of Committee on Form of Ships, 829. Report of Experiments on Steam Engines, 830. Bevan's Paddle-Wheel, 831. Cooke's Clock Movement—Leahy on Method of ascertaining Distances—Hawkins on Concrete—Dean's Method of Raising Sunken Vessels—Fairbairn's Report of Committee on Constitution of Metals—Taylor on Simple Steam Engine—Scoresby on Trigonometrical Indicator—Henessey on Machine for Determining Distances, 854.

SOCIETIES—continued.

Soldier of Fortune, by Curling, 1133
Soldiers and Sailors, 61
Solty's Rural Chemistry, 865
Sopwith's Museum of Geology, 754 [see also p. 16]
Southey, Mrs., [see Sigourney]
Spalding Club: Book of Strathbogie, 933
Spalding's Philosophy of Christian Morals, 1090
Spanish Moderate Liberals, 712
Spanish without a Master, by Monteith, 570
Spas Revisited, by Granville, 1004
Stage-Coach, by Mills, 769
Stanley Ghost, The, 61
Statistical Companion to Pocket-Book, by Weld, 61
Stebbing's Church of Christ, 14
Stenography, by Bradley, 981
Stent's Egypt and Holy Land, 609
Stephens's Yucatan, 277, 305
Sterling's Stafford, 754
Stewart's Leisure Hours, 770

—Lord Dacre, of Gilsland, 1008
Stoddard and Conolly, Murder of, at Bokhara, 64,
—533, 754, 845, 947, 1010, 1093, 1116, 1138, 1161
Stone's (Mrs.) Young Milliner, 457
Story's Love and Literature, 235
Stow's London, by Thoms, 14
Stowe's Mayflower, 1070
Strafford, by Sterling, 754
Strife and Peace, by Bremer, 934
Strutt's Tour in Calabria and Sicily, 232
Studies of New Testament, 943
Sullivan's Dict. of Derivations, 179

—Geography Generalized, 37
Summerly's Hand-Book for Nat. Gallery, 1140; A
Merry Christmas to You; 1140; Home Treasury,
628, 1045
Sutton's Culture of Grape Vine in Australia, 901
Swaine's Equity without Compromise, 589
Switzerland, by Mrs. Yates, 588
Sydenham (Lord), Life of, by Scrope, 685, 711
Symbolism, by Moehler, 981
Symons's Light and Life for the People, 589
Synodical Power of Church, by O'Brien, 1043
Synopsis of Government Administrations, 794
Syria, Reminiscences of, by Napier, 753
Taste, Hand-Book of, by Fabius Pictor, 689
Tattam's Defence of Church of England, 1008
Taylor's Jerusalem as it was and is, 793
Taylor's Life in the Ranks, 754

—Scenes and Adventures in Afghanistan, 708
Tecuicseh, by Colton, 818
Tegart's Reformers of Sixteenth Century, 735
Tegemeier's View of Organized Bodies, 794
Teignmouth, Life of, by Lord Teignmouth, 564
Temple Church, 39, 301, 338, 445, 1051

THEATRES:
Concert Garden—Miss Rainforth's *Semiramide*—The Highwayman, 21. Gustavus, 45. Mothers and Daughters, 92. Lady of the Lake, 116. Maid of Cashmere; M. and Madame Leconte's *debut*, 111. Hamlet: Mr. Gregory's appearance, 166. Love: Mrs. Ryder's and Mr. Pannier's *debut*, 241. Oberon: Fanny Elsler, 298. Close of Season, 416. Benedict's benefit, 676. Opening: A Woman—My Wife's *debut*, 998. London Assurance: Hoskins' *debut*—Othello, 925. Close of Season, 946. Slight Mistakes, 955. Les Enfants Castelli: Laurenceau, 957.

Drury Lane—21. La Gazza Ladra: Miss S. Novello's *debut*, 41. Cymbeline, 92. Lady of Lyons—Der Freischütz, 142. Blot on the Scutcheon—Thumping Leacy, 166. Much ado about Nothing: Macready's *benefit*—Cassius, 290. Virginia, 241. Sapphire: Miss Clara Novello's *debut*—Mrs. Alfred Shaw—Standish's *debut*, 347, 493. Fortunio, 365. The Secretary, 420. Acta and Galatea: Standish's *Polypheuse*, 470. Athelwold, 516, 522. Close of Season, 527. Fanny's Farewell Address, with Comments, 523. Mr. Stretton's benefit, 612. Opening: Siege of Rochelle—The Peri: Carlotta Grisi's *debut*, 908. The Favorite, 948. Mrs. A. Shaw's *debut*—My Wife's *debut*, 965. Devil in Love, 1031. Balfe's Bohemian Girl, 1075.

Haymarket—Close of Season, 68. Opening: Soldier's Daughter: Miss Bennett's *debut*, 306. Little Devil, 516. Mr. Webster's offer of Prize, 524, 571. Louison, 527. Mr. Keen, 571. Moonshine, 714. *Semiramide*: Gray, Brambilla, Fornasari, 735. Old Parr, 732. Railroad Trip, 965. Victor and Hortense—Know your own Mind, 987. Laying a Ghost, 1031. Caught in a Trap, 1076.

Her Majesty's Theatre—Adella: Conti's *debut*—Aurore: Du-milatre's *debut*—La Tarentule, Fanny Elsler's, 298. Belisario: Signora Molteni's and Signor Fornasari's *debut*—Giselle, 316. Giselle—La Sonnambula, 346. La Sonnambula: Fornasari, Mario, 371. *Semiramide*: Gray, Brambilla, Fornasari—The Gipsy, 365. Figaro: Fornasari, 414. La Gazza Ladra: Fornasari, Mario, Brambilla, 462. I Puritani—Lucresia Borgia, 514. Linda di Chamouni, 527. Ondine, 568. Rossini's Stabat, 612. Don Pasquale, 637. I Puritani, 676. La Cenerentola, 717. Costa's benefit: Le Délire d'un Peintre, 718. Close, 757.

Princess's Theatre—La Sonnambula: *debut* of Garcia and Weiss, 2. Lucia di Lammermoor, 116. Little Red Riding Hood, 142. Three Graces, 306. Tancrède: Miss Flower and Mr. Weiss, 422. La Gazza Ladra, 676. Geraldine, 757. Mr. and Mrs. Keeley, 1079.

St. James's Theatre—French Plays—Opening of Season: Madame du Barri: *debut* of Madame Albert and Mlle. Prosper, 61. L'Omelette Fantastique—Marie, 117. L'Ami Grandet—La Mémorie de Marly, 166. Mlle. Plessy: Le

THEATRES—continued.

Portrait Vivant, 241. Clemence—Le Legs, 316. Mlle. Duche and Vernet's *debut*, 347. Les Mémoires du Diable—Le Père de la Débutante, 398. Vernet, 446. Voltaire on Vacances—La Nuit aux soufflets—Indiana et Charlesmagne; Déjazet and Lavasseur, 493. Bouffé's *Père Grandet*—Le Père Turcatel—Le Gamin de Paris, 574. Close of Season, 700.

Artley—396
Thoughts on Mental Functions, 609
Thunder Storms, by Snow Harris, 733
Tintner, Stonehenge, &c., by Prentice, 548
Todd on Gout and Rheumatic Fever, 754
Tombstones, Paget on, 650
Towers's Croton Aqueduct, 974; [see also 1046]
Townsend's Hist. of House of Commons, 405
Trench's Genovese, 211
Trollope's Hargrave, 333
—Jessie Phillips, 956
—The Laurringtons, 1107

Tucker's Life of Earl of St. Vincent, 1061, 1085, 1105
Tuft Hunter, The, by Lord William Lennox, 178
Turner's Proverbial Philosophy, 329
Turner's Caister Castle, 1158
Turning, by Holtzapffel, 156
Twining on Cretinism, 588 [see also p. 1050]
Tymms's Family Topographer—Middlesex, 670
United Irishmen, by Madden, 581
Universities, English, by Huber, 838
Vaughan's Age of Great Cities, 53
—Protestant Non-Conformity, 609

Verisimilitudes, 982
Vetch on Canal between Mediterr. and Red Sea, 1090
Viator's Poems, 509
Vigils, by Leopold Schefer, 732 [see also p. 314]
Vignancour's Poetry of Beams, 8
Violet, Mons., by Marryat, 1069
Virgin Islands, Letters from, 651
Vision, Maser on—(Poggendorf's Annalen), 458
Voice from Holy Land, 735
Von Raumer on Poetics of Aristotle, 259
Wakefield, Cameron's Notabilities of, 589
Wale's Nature, 843
Walpole's Letters to Sir H. Mann, 624, 646, 667
Waltheoff, by Worsley, 177
Waltzing, Reform your, 981
War and Peace, by Jay, 259
Ward's Journal of S. Curwen, 207
Washing Book, Ladies' Polyglott, 944
Waterston's Cyclopaedia of Commerce, 630
Waterston on Moral and Spiritual Culture, 1008
Wathen on Arts of Ancient Egypt, 588
Weil's Mohammed and his Doctrines, 1037
Wellesley, Viscount—Fifth Political Word, 223
Westmacott (Sir R.'s) Lectures on Sculpture, 157, 212,
260, 308, 365, 439

Westminster Abbey, 63; by an Amateur, 112, 214;
the Ecclesiologist, 269; Letter on the Appropriate
Disposal of Monuments, by Westmacott, 672
Whimsicalities, by Thomas Hood, 1155
White's Elements of Universal History, 260
Whitefriars, 1159
White People and Church of Scotland, 865
Who should educate the Prince of Wales? 712
Wigan's Brighton and its three Climates, 901
Wight, Isle of, Gwilliam's Rambles in, 589
Wilke's Austria, 563
Wilkie (Sir D.) Life of, by Cunningham, 357, 386, 411
Willan's Flower Girl, 695
Williams on Primitive Tradition, 712
Willich's Tithe Commutation Tables for 1843, 109
Wilson on Spasm, Langour and Palsy, 711
Wilson's Voyage round Scotland, 55, 84
Winsdor Castle, by Ainsworth, 609
Winslow on Insanity in Criminal Cases, 253
Woman in England, by Miss Lawrence, 151
Women and Female Children, Condition of, 257
World, Voyage round, by Capt. Sir E. Belcher, 173
Worley's Borgia, 177
Worsley's Waltheoff, 177
Wright's Study of Creation, 529
Wrongs of Women, by Charlotte Elizabeth, 981
Wyandotté, by J. F. Cooper, 792
Xanthian Expedition, (39), 739, 756, 1093
Yacht Voyage in Mediterranean, 11
Yarrell's Hist. of British Birds, 900
Yates's (Mrs. A.), Letters from Switzerland, 588
Yates's Modern History of Egypt, 37
Yearsley on Enlarged Tonsil & Elongated Uvula, 260
Young England's Little Library, 1161
Young Maiden, by Muzzev, 695
Young Milliner, by Mrs. Stone, 437
Young Student, by Mde. Guizot, 1008
Yucatan, Stephens's, 277, 305
Zealand (New), Dieffenbach's Travels in, 125
Zincali, The, by Borrow, 333
Zoology of Voyage of H.M.S. Sulphur, 900
Zornlin's World of Waters, 712
Zschokke's Hours of Meditation, by Haas, 1008
Zurich Letters, 876

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LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1843.

REVIEWS

Military Operations at Cabul. With a Journal of Imprisonment in Afghanistan. By Lieut. Vincent Eyre, Bengal Artillery. Murray.

This is the first voice that has reached us from the late prisoners at Cabul—the first clear and consistent account of the disasters that overwhelmed a British Army, and brought disgrace on the British name. That voice is, to our taste, somewhat loud and sharp. Mr. Eyre speaks over-confidently—as one having authority to condemn; as if, indeed, he were the representative of many, and backed by their declared judgment. Now if this be so, it may be a question how far he was at liberty to indulge in such severe censures on his superior officers, whose conduct is, perhaps, at this very moment undergoing official inquiry. We are, indeed, told in the preface, that “all such investigations will have been closed before a copy of the book can find its way to India;” but may not those who have written it, or sanctioned its publication, have been called as evidence? and does it not tend to warp the judgment of any man, that he has already recorded his opinion in the face of Europe? Our courts of law, we believe, act on this supposition; and such a publication would in England be held as a valid objection to a jurymen, and as tending to shake confidence even in a witness. Is the witness more entitled to credit, because the fact of publication does not happen to be known? We are quite sure that Mr. Eyre speaks the truth, and nothing but the truth, according to his belief; every page of his book confirms this opinion: but in the progress of the inquiry going on in India, a thousand circumstances may be brought forward, that were unknown to him as a subordinate officer, and which must materially affect the question at issue, on which, however, he stands pledged in the face of his country. There is hardly one person who was in authority at Cabul, who is not, in this book, severely censured. The Envoy, Sir William Macnaghten, comes off best, and is, indeed, highly praised for his chivalrous intrepidity; but at last “his mind lost its equipoise,” and throughout Macnaghten and Burnes are both censured for their political remissness and want of foresight before the rebellion broke out; Burnes especially:—

“No man, surely, in a highly responsible public situation—especially in such a one as that held by the late Sir Alexander Burnes—ought ever to indulge in a state of blind security, or to neglect salutary warnings, however small. It is indisputable that such warnings had been given to him; especially by a respectable Afghan named Taj-Mahomed, on the very previous night, who went in person to Sir A. Burnes to put him on his guard, but retired disgusted by the incredulity with which his assertions were received.”

The outbreak itself, we are subsequently informed, was got up by Shah Soojah, to get rid of Burnes!

“Capt. Conolly obtained convincing proof that Shah Shoojah originated the rebellion with a view to get rid of Burnes, whom he detested, and of several chiefs, whom he hoped to see fall a sacrifice to our vengeance; little anticipating the ruinous result to himself and to us. Poor Burnes had made but few friends among the chiefs, who now never mention his name but in terms of the bitterest hatred and scorn. He seems to have kept too much aloof from them; thus they had no opportunity of appreciating his many valuable qualities, and saw in him only the traveller, who had come to spy the nakedness of the land, in order that he might betray it to his countrymen. The King considered him as a personal enemy, and dreaded his probable succession to the post of Envoy on the departure of Sir W. Macnaghten.”

As to the military commanders, they were,

according to Mr. Eyre, mere old women, or worse; Elphinstone, an amiable man, but worn out; “illness had materially affected his nerves, perhaps his intellect.” “His fate,” we are told, “ought to serve as a warning to others of his class, who, priding themselves on a Peninsular fame of some thirty years’ standing, are too apt to forget the inroads time may have meanwhile made on mind and body;” and the General’s incapacity, “not being redeemed by the qualities of his second, proved the ruin of us all.” Here we have reputations knocked down like nine-pins! Now, for our own part, we shall wait the issue of the Inquiry, before we allow our judgment to be prejudiced against men hitherto of unsullied reputation; and shall, therefore, confine ourselves to the painful narrative of suffering, about which there can be no doubt.

It was early in the morning of the 2nd of November, that intelligence was brought into the cantonment that a popular outbreak had taken place in the city, and that an attack had been made on the houses of all the British officers residing in Cabul. Before 9 o’clock on the same day Burnes and his companions were murdered. Yet little danger was apprehended. It was still believed to be a mere tumult, and no measures were taken demonstrative of British energy and power. The next day, Major Swaine and his regiment, proceeding to join Brigadier Shelton’s force near the Lahore Gate, were driven back into the cantonment; and the 37th regiment, on its return from Khoord Cabul, was attacked by 3,000 Giljees, but “managed” to save all its baggage, excepting a few tents. The enemy also took possession of the King’s Garden, and thus cut off all communication with the commissariat fort; indeed, the latter was abandoned the next day:—

“It is beyond a doubt that our feeble and ineffectual defence of this fort, and the valuable booty it yielded, was the first fatal blow to our supremacy at Cabul. * * It no sooner became generally known that the commissariat fort, upon which we were dependent for supplies, had been abandoned, than one universal feeling of indignation pervaded the garrison; nor can I describe the impatience of the troops, but especially the native portion, to be led out for its recapture—a feeling that was by no means diminished by their seeing the Afghans crossing and recrossing the road between the commissariat fort and the gate of the *Shah Bagh*, laden with the provisions upon which had depended our ability to make a protracted defence.”

Active and aggressive measures were now taken, marked, as usual, with personal gallantry and heroic daring, but with little credit in a military point of view:—

“At this time not above two days’ supply of provisions remained in garrison, and it was very clear that, unless the enemy were quickly driven out from their new possession, we should soon be completely hemmed in on all sides. At the Envoy’s urgent desire, he taking the entire responsibility on himself, the General ordered a force to hold themselves in readiness under Brigadier Shelton to storm the Rica-bashe fort. * * The whole issued from cantonments, a storming party consisting of two companies from each regiment taking the lead, preceded by Capt. Bellew, who hurried forward to blow open the gate. Missing the gate, however, he blew open a wicket of such small dimensions as to render it impossible for more than two or three men to enter abreast, and these in a stooping posture. This, it will be seen, was one cause of discomfiture in the first instance; for the hearts of the men failed them when they saw their foremost comrades struck down, endeavouring to force an entrance under such disadvantageous circumstances, without being able to help them. The signal, however, was given for the storming party, headed by Col. Mackerell. On nearing the wicket, the detachment encountered an excessively sharp fire from the walls, and the small passage, through which they endeavoured to rush in, merely

served to expose the bravest to almost certain death from the hot fire of the defenders. Col. Mackerell, however, and Lieut. Bird of Shah’s 6th infantry, accompanied by a handful of Europeans and a few sepoy, forced their way in; Capt. Westmacott of the 37th being shot down outside, and Capt. McCrae sabred in the entrance. The garrison, supposing that these few gallant men were backed by the whole attacking party, fled in consternation out of the gate, which was on the opposite side of the fort, and which ought to have been the point assailed. Unfortunately, at this instant a number of the Afghan cavalry charged round the corner of the fort next the wicket: the cry of ‘Cavalry!’ was raised, a cry which too often, during our operations, paralyzed the arms of those, whose muskets and bayonets we have been accustomed to consider as more than a match for a desultory charge of irregular horsemen; the Europeans gave way simultaneously with the sepoy—a bugler of the sixth infantry, through mistake, sounded the retreat—and it became for a time a scene of *saue qui peut*. In vain did the officers, especially Major Scott of H.M.’s 44th, knowing the fearful predicament of his commanding officer, exhort and beseech their men to charge forward—not a soul would follow them, save a private of the 44th named Steward, who was afterwards promoted for his solitary gallantry. Let me here do Brigadier Shelton justice: his acknowledged courage redeemed the day; for, exposing his own person to a hot fire, he stood firm amidst the crowd of fugitives, and by his exhortations and example at last rallied them; advancing again to the attack, again our men faltered, notwithstanding that the fire of the great guns from the cantonments, and that of Capt. Mackenzie’s jaulchees from the N.E. angle of the Mission Compound, together with a demonstration on the part of our cavalry, had greatly abated the ardour of the Afghan horse. A third time did the Brigadier bring on his men to the assault, which now proved successful. We became masters of the fort. But what, in the meantime, had been passing inside the fort, where, it will be remembered, several of our brave brethren had been shut up, as it were, in the lions’ den? On the first retreat of our men, Lieut. Bird, with Col. Mackerell and several Europeans, had hastily shut the gate by which the garrison had for the most part evacuated the place, securing the chain with a bayonet: the repulse outside, however encouraged the enemy to return in great numbers, and it being impossible to remain near the gate on account of the hot fire poured in through the crevices, our few heroes speedily had the mortification to see their foes not only re-entering the wicket, but, having drawn the bayonet, rush in with loud shouts through the now re-opened gate. Poor Mackerell, having fallen, was literally hacked to pieces, although still alive at the termination of the contest. Lieut. Bird, with two sepoy, retreated into a stable, the door of which they closed; all the rest of the men, endeavouring to escape through the wicket, were met and slaughtered. Bird’s place of concealment at first, in the confusion, escaped the observation of the temporarily triumphant Afghans; at last it was discovered, and an attack commenced at the door. This, being barricaded with logs of wood, and whatever else the tenants of the stable could find, resisted their efforts, while Bird and his now solitary companion, a sepoy of the 37th N. I. (the other having been struck down), maintained as hot a fire as they could, each shot taking deadly effect from the proximity of the party engaged. The fall of their companions deterred the mass of the assailants from a simultaneous rush, which must have succeeded; and thus that truly chivalrous, high-minded, and amiable young gentleman, whose subsequent fate must be ranked among the mysterious dispensations of Providence which we cannot for the present fathom, stood at bay with his equally brave comrade for upwards of a quarter of an hour, when, having only five cartridges left, in spite of having rifled the pouch of the dead man, they were rescued as related above. Our troops literally found the pair ‘grim and lonely there,’ upwards of thirty of the enemy having fallen by their unassisted prowess.”

This gallant action had, for the moment, its influences. On the 15th Major Pottinger and Lieut. Haughton arrived from Charekar, both severely wounded. The sufferings and hair-

breadth escapes of these officers were almost beyond belief. Surrounded, in a distant fortress, by thousands of enemies, they held out until all hope of relief was past, and further resistance appeared to be a mere wanton sacrifice of life.

"From this time the unfortunate horses and cattle of the garrison were obliged to endure the extremity of thirst, there being no water for them, and the supply for even the fighting men scanty in the extreme, obtained only from a few pools in the ditch of the rampart, which had been formed by a seasonable fall of rain. * * On the 10th, the officers drew their last pool of water, and served out *half a wine-glass* to each fighting man. * * Major Pottinger considered that the only remaining chance of saving any portion of the regiment was a retreat to Cabul; and although that was abundantly perilous, he entertained a hope that a few of the most active men who were not encumbered with wives and children might escape. * * Dr. Grant then amputated Mr. Haughton's right hand, and hastily dressed the severe wounds which he had received in his left arm and on his neck. In the evening the doctor spiked all the guns with his own hands, and the garrison then left the barracks by the postern gate. * * Notwithstanding the previous sufferings of these unfortunate men, it may be said that here commenced their real disasters. In vain did Major Pottinger attempt to lead his men to seize a building generally occupied by the enemy after night-fall, by the possession of which the exit of the main body from the barracks might be covered. In fact, it was with much difficulty that he eventually succeeded in halting them at about half a mile from the barracks until the main body and rear should close up. The men were naturally occupied entirely with their families, and such property as it had been impossible to prevent their bringing away; and discipline, the only source of hope under such circumstances, was at an end. After the junction of the main body and rear, Dr. Grant suddenly disappeared, and was not afterwards seen. * * At Sinjit Durrah they quitted the road to avoid alarming the villages, and any outposts that might be stationed there; and much time was lost in regaining the track from the other side: at Istaliff the same manœuvre was practised. Major Pottinger now found very few inclined to push on; exhaustion from the pain of his wound precluded the possibility of his being of any further use as a leader; and he determined to push on with Mr. Haughton towards Cabul, although with faint hope, that the strength of either would prove adequate to the exertion. Having no guide, they got into many difficulties; and day was breaking by the time they reached the range of mountains half way between Charekar and Cabul. Men and horses were by this time incapable of further endurance: the latter, it must be remembered, had been ten days without water previously to starting, and five days without food; they were still upwards of twenty miles from any place of safety; their sufferings from their wounds, fatigue, hunger, and thirst, made life a burden, and at this time despair had almost obtained a victory.—But God sustained them. By Mr. Haughton's advice they sought shelter in a very deep but dry ravine, close to a small village, hoping that their proximity to danger might prove a source of safety; as it was probable that the inhabitants, who by this time must have been on the alert, would scarcely think of looking for their prey close to their own doors. The companions of Major Pottinger and Mr. Haughton were a sepoy of the regiment, a moonshie, and the regimental *buniah*. In the forenoon they were alarmed by a firing on the mountains above them; the cause of this, as it appeared afterwards, was that a few of the fugitive Goorkhas had ascended the hills for safety (which, indeed, it was Major Pottinger's wish to do, until he yielded to the arguments of his companion), whither they were pursued and massacred by the country people. The rest of the day passed in tranquillity; and again, under the friendly shroud of darkness, having previously calculated their exact position, did this sorely-bested little party resume their dangerous route. * * Weak and exhausted, their hardly and usually sure-footed Toorkman horses could scarcely strain up the almost impracticable side of the mountain, or preserve their equilibrium in the sharp sudden descents which they encountered, for path there was none. On one occasion Mr. Haughton, whose desperate wounds I have already described,

fell off, and being unable to rise, declared his determination of awaiting his fate where he lay. The Major refused to desert him, and both slept for about one hour, when, nature being a little restored, they pushed on until they descended into the plain of Alifat, which they crossed, avoiding the fort of that name, and struggling up the remaining ridge that separated them from the plain of Cabul, they entered it by the southern end of the Cabul lake. Intending now to cross the cultivation, and to reach cantonments by the back of the Shah's garden, Major Pottinger missed his road close to Kila-i-bolund, and found himself within the enemies' sentries; but being unwilling to alarm them by retracing his steps, after discovering his mistake, he led the way towards Deh Affghan. Here they were challenged by various outposts, to whom they answered after the fashion of Afghan horsemen; but they were compelled, in order to avoid suspicion, actually to enter the city of Cabul, their only hope now being in the slumberous security of the inhabitants at that hour (it being now 3 A.M.), and in the protection of their Afghan dress and equipments. The Goorkha sepoy, who, strange to say, had kept up with them on foot, had his outward man concealed by a large *postheen*, or sheepskin cloak. They pursued their way through the lanes and bazar of the city, without any interruption, except the occasional gruff challenge of a sleepy watchman, until they gained the skirts of the city. There they were like to have been stopped by a picket which lay between them and the cantonment.—The disposition to a relaxation of vigilance as the morning approaches, which marks the Afghan soldier, again befriended them; they had nearly passed the post before they were pursued.—Desperation enabled them to urge their wearied horses into a pace, which barely gave them the advantage over their enemies who were on foot; and they escaped with a volley from the now aroused picket, the little Goorkha freshening his way in the most surprising manner, considering his previous journey. A few hundred yards further brought them within the ramparts of our cantonment, where they were received by their brethren in arms as men risen from the dead.

Those in authority began now to speculate on the future; and questions were raised, whether it was possible to hold out in cantonment, advisable to remove to the Bala Hissar, or retreat to Jellalabad. It was resolved, however, and at once, in consequence of the inconvenience arising from the interruption of the supplies, to attack a village in the neighbourhood, and maintain the position; and the whole disposable force was employed in this service under General Shelton. This day, says Mr. Eyre, decided the fate of the Cabul army; "in this miserable and disastrous affair there were no less than six great errors." Be that as it may, it is enough for our readers to know, that the attempt was unsuccessful, and ended in an utter rout. All confidence was lost—yet even now, says Mr. Eyre, "we might have steered clear of destruction, had the helm of affairs been grasped by a hand competent to the important task." At the "pressing representation of the military commanders," and contrary, we are told, to the judgment of the Envoy, negotiations were opened with the enemy, and on the 11th of December a treaty was concluded, the general purport of which is well known. Briefly, it was agreed that we should evacuate Cabul, and surrender all the fortresses in the country, and be permitted to retire, not only unmolested, but under the protection of the enemy! How infamously this treaty was violated, the slaughtered thousands of our army is lamentable proof. But the treachery was not all on one side. This treaty was entered into on the 11th of December, and every preparation forthwith made for carrying it into execution. A division of the troops had even commenced their march, when Sir William Macnaghten entered into secret negotiations with Mahomed Akber Khan, by which,—

"Amenoolah Khan, the most influential of the rebels, was to be seized on the following day, and

delivered up to us as a prisoner. Mahomed Khan's fort was to be immediately occupied by one of our regiments, and the Bala Hissar by another. Shah Shoojah was to continue king; Mahomed Akber was to become his wuzer, and our troops were to remain in their present position until the following spring!"

It is with deep humiliation that we record here, that the British Envoy was a consenting party to these disgraceful proceedings, and gave a written sanction to the arrangement. From that moment the British forces were doomed to destruction. The whole project, it appears, was a piece of complicated cunning, to test the sincerity of our professions, and our intention to surrender the fortresses and abandon the country. At the next meeting, when all this double dealing was to bear its fruit,—when the military were under arms in the cantonments and prepared for "secret service"—Sir William Macnaghten, Captains Trevor, Lawrence, and Mackenzie, set forth on their disastrous expedition. We shall now quote from the narrative furnished by the latter officer:—

"After the usual salutations Mohammed Akber commenced business, by asking the Envoy if he was perfectly ready to carry into effect the proposition of the preceding night? The Envoy replied, 'Why not?' My attention was then called off by an old Afghan acquaintance of mine, formerly chief of the Cabul police, by name Gholam Moyun-ood-deen. I rose from my recumbent posture, and stood apart with him conversing. I afterwards remembered that my friend betrayed much anxiety as to where my pistols were, and why I did not carry them on my person. I answered that although I wore my sword for form, it was not necessary at a friendly conference to be armed *cap-à-pie*. His discourse was also full of extravagant compliments, I suppose for the purpose of lulling me to sleep. At length my attention was called off from what he was saying, by observing that a number of men, armed to the teeth, had gradually approached to the scene of conference, and were drawing round in a sort of circle. This Lawrence and myself pointed out to some of the chief men, who affected at first to drive them off with whips; but Mahomed Akber observed that it was of no consequence, as they were in the secret. I again resumed my conversation with Gholam Moyun-ood-deen, when suddenly I heard Mahomed Akber call out, 'Begeer, beger, (seize! seize!); and turning round, I saw him grasp the Envoy's left hand with an expression in his face of the most diabolical ferocity. I think it was Sultan Jan who laid hold of the Envoy's right hand. They dragged him in a stooping posture down the hillock, the only words I heard poor Sir William utter being, 'Az barae Khoda' (for God's sake)! I saw his face, however, and it was full of horror and astonishment."

The survivors, as may be supposed, were treated with scorn and insult—"vehemently accused of treachery, and everything that was bad." Mr. Eyre is indignant at the baseness of the Afghans—we think this censure ought to be modified. There was treachery on both sides. The only difference, we fear, is, that the Afghans outwitted their enemies.

The little energy that remained in the camp was now paralyzed: the retreat commenced forthwith. But we must defer the particulars of its horrors, and the "Journal of Imprisonment," until next week.

The Life of Sir A. Cooper, Bart. By Bransby Blake Cooper, Esq. 2 vols. Parker.

The oft-quoted maxim, that no man is a hero to his *valet de chambre*, is not of universal application. If the intimacy of this relationship leads to a knowledge of depreciating weaknesses, it may also beget a familiarity with them, that ends by blunting, in the observer, all sense of their import: and another tendency,—that towards hero-worship,—oftentimes converts failings (like the evidences of the Dalai Lama's mortal nature,) into subjects for reverence and admiration. On the other hand, there is this much truth

in the aphorism, that the valet can only see with a valet's eye. Whatever is received, say the schoolmen, is received *pro ratione recipientis*; which, being translated, means that you cannot put more into a quart bottle than a quart. On both these accounts, therefore, it is desirable that the lives of intellectual persons should be written by men of mental calibre approaching their own; and whatever advantage may be found in the superior opportunities which relatives may be supposed to possess, for obtaining much and accurate information, there are many chances against a near relation possessing this intellectual equality. Again, from the very propinquity arises considerable danger of distortion. There is much risk of the absence of a due discrimination, both as to the value and the meaning of individual traits. Hence a frequent disposition to magnify trifles, to dwell upon points proving nothing but the importance of the man in the eyes of his biographer,—nay, to bring into evidence blemishes and infirmities, which had better been withheld. All these evils are unfortunately prominent in the biography now before us, which, with an overpowering quantity of matter, either wholly uninteresting, or having no very close relation to the proposed end of the work, fails in displaying the characteristic merits of the man, if it does not give a less favourable impression than that which previously had been entertained of him by the public. In addition to difficulties thus arising, Mr. Bransby Cooper has encountered another scarcely less embarrassing, from the necessity under which he has found himself, of separating the man from the surgeon. Generally, the whole existence of a man of science lies in his works; and there seems to be no reason for regarding Sir Astley as an exception to the rule. Medical and surgical practitioners, indeed, spend their lives almost exclusively in the close pursuit of their studies or their business; and an incessant round of fee-taking activity affords little room for incident, either of general amusement or of general profit. Accordingly, in the life before us, although an estimate of Sir Astley's surgical labours is studiously avoided, the main interest lies, not the less, in a development of his professional resources and opportunities, and in scientific details only acceptable to the hospital pupil, or the contemporary and colleague. The result must be, that the book, as a biography, will less than gratify either the general reader or the student; while, after all, there is quite sufficient surgical matter in the volumes to be occasionally distasteful or unintelligible to those not of the profession. As an instance of narrative at once but remotely illustrative of the main subject of the work, and unfitting and unpleasant for the general reader, we must mention the long chapters relating to the craft of the resurrectionist, and to the personal adventures of those engaged in it. The beneficial change which has been made in the laws affecting anatomy, has removed all occasion for trespassing upon public feeling, by going over again that ground, and divulging the "secrets of the prison-house;" and the whole bears too close a resemblance to chapters torn from the adventures of some Jack Sheppard, to merit a place in a work like the present.

One fixed impression with which we rose from a perusal of these volumes is, that of the wondering admiration of the author (neither unnatural, by the bye, nor unamiable, in Mr. B. Cooper) for his relation and benefactor. This has, in many instances, operated disadvantageously to the subject of the memoir, by bringing forward traits much better suppressed. Thus, we have a superabundance of anecdotes touching the youth of Sir Astley, which depict him too strongly in the light of an idle, rash, and daring athlete, with all but aversion for scholastic labours, and a spice

of mischief sometimes extending beyond the thoughtlessness of youth, and trenching on a want of proper feeling for others. For example, we are told,—

"Whilst out shooting near Yarmouth, he one day killed an owl—a bird familiarly known in Norfolk by the soubriquet of 'Brother Billy.' Having arrived at home, he went up into his mother's room, with the bird concealed beneath his coat, and assuming a countenance full of fear and sorrow, called out, 'Mother! mother! I've shot my brother Billy!' but the alarm and distress instantly depicted on the distracted countenance of his parent, induced him as quickly as possible to pull the owl from under his coat. This at once exposed the truth and allayed the apprehension of his mother's mind, but the effects of the shock it had caused did not so immediately pass away. So thoughtless a joke his father determined should not go unpunished, and he therefore confined him, according to his usual mode of correction, in his own room. Astley, however, was but little disposed to remain passive in his imprisonment, and in the wantonness of his ever active disposition, amused himself by climbing up the chimney, and having at last reached the summit, endeavoured, by imitating the well-known tone of voice of a chimney-sweeper, and calling out as lustily as he could, 'Sweep! sweep!' to attract the attention of the people below."

Another instance of this disposition occurs a little further on, which did not turn out quite so pleasantly for the facetious youth:—

"One day, when Mr. Turner, the apothecary, was in the surgery, giving orders to one of the apprentices, Astley Cooper, who was standing behind him, attempted to excite laughter in the apprentice, by twisting his face into various grimaces, and practising other antics. The disturbance which soon followed in the apprentice's features caught the notice of Mr. Turner, who quickly turning round in the apparent direction of its cause, discovered Astley Cooper in the midst of the employment above mentioned; and seemingly in extreme astonishment at his strange behaviour, at once, with eagerness, inquired its cause. Astley, without exhibiting any signs of discomposure, or ceasing to make the contortions in which he was detected, returned no answer to the inquiry but an exclamation in a tone of much distress, of 'Oh! my tooth! my tooth!' 'God bless me! let me see,' said Mr. Turner; and on the instant, removing young Cooper's hand from his cheek, and forcibly opening his mouth, with a hasty remark, he whipped in a pair of forceps, and to the amusement of the astonished apprentice, before Astley had time to recover himself or explain the deception, had wrenched out one of his double teeth. The tooth which Mr. Turner thus extracted was decayed, and so, not thinking it worth while making any explanation, Cooper merely expressed himself much relieved, and thanked his benefactor. Sir Astley used to say, however, that he never could determine in his own mind whether it was not intended as a punishment for the interruption he had made, or whether, believing him really in earnest, Mr. Turner had, in pity for his supposed sufferings, displayed such activity in applying the remedy."

Again, at a far later period of life, we have the following:—

"Upon the occasion to which I allude, my uncle, being excessively anxious to examine some very peculiar disease of which a patient had died, had surreptitiously secured the key of the room where the bodies are placed before interment, and as soon as lecture was finished, ordered the coachman to take the carriage to the end of St. Thomas's Street, and wait for him. He then desired Canton to get a light, and to come to him. * * * Unluckily, just as they were about to conclude their operations, the candle was overset, and extinguished, and they were thus suddenly thrown into complete darkness. It at once occurred to Sir Astley, that it would be an excellent joke to leave Canton a prisoner in the room for an hour or two, until the watchman on going his rounds might hear him and liberate him, and he therefore tried to effect his departure unheard by his companion. Canton, however, perceived that Sir Astley was groping his way out with silent and marked caution, and at once suspected his object. He therefore as quietly sought to effect his escape, and happening at the time to be the nearer of the two to the

door, and younger, he was enabled to do this without the knowledge of Sir Astley, who was soon left far behind him, still engaged in overcoming the intricacies of his way from the room. Presently Sir Astley was outside the door, when, hastily turning the key, he made some remark to his supposed imprisoned companion, and hastened away. Canton, however, a nimble fellow, was by this time seated quietly in the corner of Sir Astley's carriage."

It is fair, however, to add, that the love of practical jokes seems to have been a part of Sir Astley's personal character, and, being so, may have been thought to warrant the notice thus taken of it, however inconsistent with the dignity of the subject.

If not the most valuable, by far the liveliest portions of these volumes are of a character purely anecdotic, and, though frequently relating to persons rather gone by in public recollection, are of some intrinsic humour. Such is the reply of a young Irishman, related on Sir Astley's authority:—

"I have heard my uncle, in advertent to his attendance at a medical debating society, mention a witty retort which occurred in a discussion at one of its meetings, between two young surgeons, one an Irishman, the other a Scotchman. The former maintained that cancer never occurred in women who had borne children. The young Scotchman vehemently opposed this doctrine, and mentioned the case of a lady who had twice had twins, and yet had cancer afterwards. To this apparently conclusive evidence, the Irishman immediately replied, 'Ah, by my soul, but don't you know that's an exception to the general rule,—where's the wonder in Cancer following Gemini?—it always does.'"

We shall next give an anecdote, related by Sir Astley, of Sir John Leach:—

"The late Mr. Jekyll told me an anecdote which created a great laugh against Sir John Leach at Cashiobury. They were staying with the late Lord Essex, and slept in adjoining rooms. From each of their apartments was a door opening into a closet which was common to the two chambers, and divided only by a slight partition. On the first day of his visit, Mr. Jekyll had retired to his room to dress for dinner, when he was surprised by hearing the Vice-Chancellor vociferating loudly in the adjoining room, and in the most vehement manner abusing his valet for having neglected to put up his satin breeches in the portmanteau. As he paced in a violent passion up and down his apartment, he continually, with much emphasis, inquired of the servant, whether he thought it possible,—whether it would be proper,—in him to go down to dinner without his nether garments. At last the valet, who acknowledged the awkwardness of such a proceeding, told him that he had brought down with him a pair, which his Honour had a short time before given to him, and which he had never worn. The suggestion of this expedient at first increased his master's anger, and the indignation he expressed was more than ever vehement. At last, however, the dinner-bell was rung; he was obliged to acquiesce, and accordingly resumed his acquaintance with his left-off garment. The whole of this dialogue Mr. Jekyll related to Lord Essex, who, immediately on the removal of the cloth, introduced a conversation about dress, and, after avowing that he considered Sir John Leach the best dressed man of his day, corrected himself by observing that he was not so smart as usual. This subject of conversation was maintained for some time to the amusement of all the party but Sir John Leach."

The following is characteristic, and touches on a quality which went for much in producing Sir Astley's eminence,—his proneness to self-confidence, and a concomitant high appreciation of his own endowments;—qualities which, in ordinary persons, are commonly the causes of deplorable failures. Sir Astley had met with a severe fall from a horse, which, indeed, placed his life in considerable jeopardy:—

"Mr. Cooper was one morning after the accident, when in the full belief that he was about to die, lamenting to Mr. Cline the event, not so much on his own account, as because it arrested a train of professional inquiry in which he was then engaged, and

which he thought would prove of the highest public benefit. 'Make yourself quite easy, my friend,' replied Mr. Cline, 'the result of your disorder, whether fatal or otherwise, will not be thought of the least consequence by mankind.' The eager aspiring ambition of the young patient, and the calm philosophic coolness of his preceptor, form a curious contrast,—but at the same time the anecdote exhibits feelings highly characteristic of each of the two parties."

The following puts us in mind of Abernethy: "Mr. Howden had a patient with an obstinate running sore, and he said, 'We will consult Mr. Hunter about your case.' As they walked from the city to Mr. Hunter's, the patient said to his medical attendant, 'What must I give Mr. Hunter?' and he answered, 'Two guineas to such a man.' They went into Mr. Hunter's room, and the case was explained. Mr. Hunter folded his arms, and said:—'And so, sir, you have an obstinate running sore?' 'Yes, sir.' 'Why then, sir,' said Mr. Hunter, 'if I had your running sore, I should say,—Mr. Sore, run and be ———.'"

Mr. Cooper, in his quality of pupil to Mr. Cline, had been brought into contact with several of the leading political characters of the day, who at that time were favourable to the French Revolution. Their opinions he seems to have adopted with fervour; and it is curious to learn that he, too, was nearly becoming a victim to the bigotry, espionage, and persecution, which were brought to bear upon the private lives of the obnoxious.

At the time when Mr. Cooper was candidate for the place of Surgeon to Guy's Hospital, the following anonymous letter was launched against his pretensions:—

"To the Treasurer of Guy's Hospital.

"Sir,—The candidates proposed for your choice at Guy's Hospital on Wednesday, are three gentlemen of tried abilities, who have served their king and country during the present war, and one who is a Jacobin, friend of Horne Tooke, and an associate of the celebrated Thelwall. By the nomination you may judge the sense of the present committees.

"CAUTION."

By what abjuration and renunciations Mr. Cooper escaped the intended ostracism, it is needless here to recapitulate. But it is a subject of painful and melancholy retrospection to observe how narrowly too of the greatest lights of medical science escaped being extinguished, for exercising that right of private judgment which is essential to the existence of a conscience, and which it is the inherent right of every man (no matter what his profession) to enjoy. The display, indeed, of any fervour for public interests is in itself sufficiently dangerous to the pecuniary interests of professional men; the public choosing to have for its guinea the whole time and the whole faculties of those whom they consult; they resent therefore any and every departure from the straight path of prescribing, which they have traced out for their favourites. At the same time they ought to know, that he who can tamely submit to such dictation, is seldom likely to be a man of energy and mental vigour, such as alone can effectively wield the science of medicine.

In an odd old *cinque cento* Italian volume on popular errors in medicine, we once encountered an interesting chapter on the error of underpaying the physician. A very long addition might be made to that chapter, curiously illustrative of human nature. Among the anecdotes of these volumes, however, we find some counterbalancing statements of the princely liberality of the merchants of London towards Mr. Cooper, which it is a pleasure to quote:—

"While my uncle was living in Broad Street, many, if not most, of the first merchants in London had residences in the city; those who had also houses in the country leaving London generally on the Friday evening, and returning on the following Monday or Tuesday morning; so that the appear-

ance of many streets, to the eastward of St. Paul's, is now so different as hardly to permit them to be recognised by any one familiar with them in those days. Most of the great houses, which, at the present day, have their street doors left open for more speedy access to the common stairs, which again lead to numerous offices on the several floors, were then private mansions, exhibiting abundant signs of the wealth and magnificence of their proprietors.

"* This state of the city had an immense influence on my uncle's practice, for although, at that time, perhaps, he did not see so many people in a day as he afterwards did in New Street, the remuneration which he received was much more liberal. The manner in which he was usually paid, was different from that afterwards adopted at the west end of the town. It was not uncommon for him, after a hard morning's work, scarcely to have received more than five fees, although he might have seen upwards of twenty patients, and yet the sum he received might be large, for they almost all paid in cheques. This plan was a source of great advantage to my uncle, for he used to say, no one wrote for less than five guineas, however slight the occasion, when two guineas would have probably been the fee had the money been taken from the pocket. When sent for out of town, the liberal manner in which he was paid was extraordinary. It may perhaps be estimated by the recital of a fact, that Mr. William Coles, of Mincing Lane, the first merchant of his day, for years paid him the sum of 600*l.* a year for attendance, his visits being chiefly made to the seat of that gentleman, near Croydon. * * In the year 1813, my uncle performed the operation for stone upon Mr. Hyatt, a West Indian merchant, who presented him with a fee of a thousand guineas, the largest, perhaps, that had ever been received for such an operation. * *

The manner in which the fee was presented, was not, perhaps, the least extraordinary part of the circumstance. Mr. Hyatt had recovered from the effects of the operation, and necessary confinement to his house, when a day was appointed by him for the last formal visit of the medical men. My uncle arrived rather late, and the physicians, Dr. Lettsom and Dr. Nelson, had already seen the patient, and were talking upon the liberality of his remuneration for their services, he having presented them each with 300*l.* Mr. Cooper therefore went up alone, talked to Mr. Hyatt, congratulated him on his recovery, and listened with emotion to the grateful expressions which he poured forth towards him as his benefactor. At last he rose to leave the room, and had reached the door, when his patient, who was sitting by the fire, took off his nightcap, and jocularly threw it at him: saying at the same time, 'There, young man, put that into your pocket.' My uncle, however, guessing the contents of the missile, inserted his hand, and took out from it a piece of paper; chucking back the cap to his patient, and at the same time saying, that he would not rob him of so useful an article, he put the paper into his pocket, and took his departure. On subsequently examining it, he found it to be a cheque for one thousand guineas."

In the foregoing extracts we have consulted the amusement of our readers more than justice to the author. We are bound, therefore, to add, that the professional contemporaries of Sir Astley will find in his volumes many pleasant reminiscences, and some professional chit-chat of graver importance.

Poetry of Béarn. [Poesies Béarnaises.] By M. Vignancour. Paris, Lecoq and Durez.

This is a curious and interesting work, written by a native of the country of Henri Quatre, and introducing to the French public poets with whom they are little acquainted, the chief and most remarkable of whom, the idol of his own mountains, from having written only in the patois of his country, is nearly unknown beyond it, and probably a stranger to most English readers. Those of our countrymen who visit the Pyrenees, generally seek their healing springs with a view to health alone, if not mere amusement, and to them the literary labours of the many men of talent Béarn has produced, are as if they had not been. The great stir that has

of late been made in consequence of the publication of the Patois poetry of Jasmin the barber of Agen, to which we lately drew attention (*Athen.* No. 784), has however caused a revival of interest with respect to the works of Despourrins, the pastoral poet of Béarn, and as the existence of his poems is scarcely dreamed of by the many, the account of him and the specimens of his peculiar genius, furnished by M. Vignancour, may not be unacceptable.

Cyprien Despourrins, though he wrote as one of the people and for them, was not, like Jasmin, a man of obscure birth; his family was originally of a race of shepherds, but one of his ancestors having made his fortune in Spain, returned a great man to his native valley, the beautiful *vallée d'Aspe*, and there bought the Abbey of Juzan, and became a proprietor with many privileges. The father of the poet inherited his estates, and distinguished himself in the career of arms, being cited for his bravery, the character of which bears the impress of the times in which he lived, namely the end of the seventeenth century. Numerous anecdotes are told of him, amongst others, that he had had a dispute with three foreign gentlemen, and in order to get the quarrel off his hands at once, he challenged them all three at the same time, and came off victorious in the combat. To perpetuate the memory of his victory, he obtained from the King permission to have engraved over the principal entrance of his house *three swords*, which may still be seen on the stone of the old building shown as his residence. After this notable exploit Pierre Despourrins visited the *Eaux de Cauteretz*, where, in the neighbourhood of Argelez, he formed an acquaintance with the family of Miramont, and an attachment to the fair Gabrielle, daughter of that house, through his marriage with whom he afterwards became possessor of the chateau of Miramont, near St. Savia, destined to become famous by means of his son, the famous poet Cyprien. The chateau is still to be seen, and is a great lion in the neighbourhood.

There are constant disputes between the people of Bigorre and Béarn, as to which has the greater right to claim the poet as their own, for he belonged to both, but as he chose the musical patois of the latter in which to sing his pastorals, it appears but just that the Béarnese should have the preference. He was born at Accous, in 1698: his two brothers, Joseph and Pierre, became, one the vicar the other the curate of the village, and he was called, *par excellence*, the *Chevalier*. There is a curious trait too illustrative of the simple manners of these mountain priests. The two brothers were very musical: one played the flute—the other the violin, and every Sunday their talents were exerted for the benefit of their parishioners. All the young people of the place were accustomed to meet in the courtyard of their house, and, seated at a casement, the reverend pair played to their dancing. As soon as the bell sounded for vespers, the ball was suspended, and all the docile flock accompanied the good pastors to church.

The Chevalier had inherited his father's warlike qualities, and was, it seems, always ready with his sword. He was at the *Eaux Bonnes* when he received an affront from a stranger, which, as Sir Lucius O'Trigger has it,—“his honour could not brook.” Unluckily, he had not his sword with him, and the affair must be decided at once; he therefore sent his servant to Accous to fetch it, recommending him great promptitude and address in inventing some story to prevent his father from guessing his errand. The servant used his utmost dispatch, and thought he had managed very cleverly to avert suspicion: the old knight, however, was too clear-sighted in such matters, and having divined the

state of the case, mounted his mule instantly, and secretly followed the messenger. He traversed the mountains of Escot and Benou, and braving all their difficulties, arrived at the Eaux Bonnes. On asking for his son, he was informed that he was closeted with a stranger: he repaired thither, and, pausing at the door, heard the clashing of swords. Satisfied that all was as he surmised, the imperturbable old knight remained quietly at his post, awaiting the issue of the combat. At length the noise of arms ceased; young Despourrins came out precipitately, and found his father on the watch, who, embracing him tenderly, exclaimed—"Your servant's hasty departure prevented my setting out with him, but I followed closely, guessing that you had an affair of honour on your hands; and in case you should fall, I brought my sword with me, which has never yet failed at need." "I am your son," replied the Chevalier; "my adversary is grievously wounded, let us hasten to afford him assistance."

After Despourrins, the son, was established near St. Savin, and the estates of the Vallée d'Aspe were abandoned by his father for his new domain, he seems to have given himself up to the charms of poetry and music, living the life of a shepherd, and familiarizing himself with the habits, customs, manners, and pleasures of that simple race, until he spoke with their words and thought with their thoughts. Whoever has visited the beautiful valley of Argelez, and wandered amongst the wilds in the neighbourhood of the once famous abbey of St. Savin, can well understand the poet's delight in such a retreat, and will not wonder when he is told that Despourrins often passed whole nights in the woods, singing his verses, like one transformed to a nightingale. Even now the songs he sung are remembered and cherished, and though the *pastors* of his native mountains probably know nothing of the poet, his lays are constantly on their tongues. One of the most famous is a romance called 'La Huit sus las Montagnes,' which we give entire, with a translation, in order to show the nature of this Troubadour language, which differs from the Gascon dialect in being softer and less guttural; in fact resembling rather more the Italian than Spanish language:—

La huit sus las montagnes, o Pastou malburous
Ségut al pe d'òu d'òu, négat de plous,
Sounyab: au cambliamen de sas amours.

"Cò leityé, cò boulatye!" dié l'infortunat,
"La tendresse et l'amour qui t'ey pourrat
Soun acco lous rebuts qu'ey méritat?"

Despach que tu frequentes la yen de coudounit
Qu'as pres à ta huit bôl, que ma mayou,
N'ey prou haïste entà tu d'òu cabiron.

Tas ouïlles d'ab las mies, nous dégnen plus mescla;
Tous superbes moutous, despach ença,
Nou s'approchen deis mies, qu'entaisa tuma!

De richesses me passai, d'annous de qualitat:
You nou soy qu'òu Pastou, mès noun n'y a nad
Que nous surpasi tous en amistat.

Encouère que sy praubé, dens moun pètit estat,
Qu'aimi mey moun Berret tout espelat,
Que nou pas lou plus bèt Chapèl boundat.

Las richesses deù mondé nou hèn que da turmen;
Et lou plus bèt Seignou, dab soun aryon,
Nou baù pas lou Pastou qui biù counten.

Adiù, cò de tygresse, Pastoure chens amou,
Cambia, be pots cambia de serbidou:
Yamey noun troubéras à tau coum you!"

High up, amongst the mountains, an unfortunate shepherd was seated at the foot of a beech, drowned in tears, musing on the changes of his love.

"Oh light, oh fickle heart!" said the unhappy youth; "for the tenderness and the affection which I have borne towards you, in this wretchedness a fitting reward?"

Since you have frequented the society of persons of condition, your flight has been so high that my humble cottage is too low for you by at least a stage.

Your flocks no longer deign to mix with mine, your haughty rams, since that period, never approach mine but a battle ensues.

I am without wealth or dignity: I am but a simple shepherd, but there is none that can surpass me in affection.

And methinks, according to my simple ideas, that I prefer my *berret*, old and worn as it is, to the finest ornamented hat that could be given me.

The riches of the world only bring uneasiness with them, and the finest lord with all his possessions cannot compare to the shepherd who lives content.

Adieu, tigress-heart! Shepherdess without affection: change, change if you will your adorers, never will you find any so true as I have been."

The melody which accompanies these pastorals is simple and full of sweetness, and, heard amongst its native mountains, has a peculiar charm: it has however found its admirers beyond those limits. The royal circle of Neuilly has been enlivened sometimes by the sound of the Béarnese minstrelsy; and, on one occasion, listened to a band of mountaineers from Luchon, who undertook, a few years since, a journey through Europe, singing their choruses in all the principal cities. On hearing the above song of Despourrins, the King exclaimed, with his usual ready kindness,—"Your songs alone would be sufficient to make one love your country." Several celebrated singers, favourites in the Italian world, were natives of Béarn; one of these, Garat, surnamed "the musical Proteus," was born at Ustaritz: nothing appeared impossible to this prodigious singer. His voice was splendid, and his taste exquisite: his only defect was an inordinate vanity, by no means an uncommon fault in artists of this description: a person on one occasion, thinking to embarrass him, inquired how high in the scale he could go; "I can mount as high as it pleases me to go," was his reply. He used frequently to surprise the Parisians by the introduction of Basque and Béarnese airs, whose peculiarity and originality never failed to cause the most lively admiration and enthusiasm: but he did not announce them as mountain songs till he had secured the praise he sought for them, having passed them for Italian productions. A similar ruse was practised by Mehul, when he brought out his 'Irató,' which the public was given to imagine was composed by an Italian *maestro*. Its success was very great, and Geoffrey, the editor of a popular paper, in noticing the opera, exclaimed,—"O, if Mehul could compose as well as this, we might be satisfied with him." When the triumphant composer threw off his incognito, the unlucky critic was not a little mortified. The celebrated singer Jelyotte was from Béarn, and Louis the Fifteenth used to delight in hearing him sing his native melodies, in particular one beginning, 'De cap à tu soy Marion,' one of Despourrins' most spirited pastorals:—

I am your own, my Marion,

You charm me with each gentle art,
Even from the first my love was won,
Your pretty ways so pleased my heart;
If you will not, or if you will,
I am compelled to love you still.

No joy was ever like my joy,
When I behold those smiling eyes,
Those graceful airs so soft and coy,

For which my heart with fondness dies:
And when I seek the charm in vain,
I dream the pleasure o'er again.

Alas! I have no palace gay,
My cottage is but small and plain,
No gold, nor marble, nor display,

No courtly friends nor glittering train;
But honest hearts and words of cheer
Are there, and store of love sincere.

Why should we not be quite as blest
Without the wealth the great may own?
A shepherd life, methinks, is best,
Whose care is for his flock alone,

And when he folds them safe and warm,
He knows no grief, he dreams no harm.

If you, dear Marion, would be mine,
No king could be so blest as I;
My thoughts, hopes, wishes should combine
To make your life pass happily;

To make your life pass happily;
Caresses, fondness, love, and glee,
Should teach you soon to love like me.

Another very favourite song is the 'Au mounde nou y a nat Pastou,' in which mention is made of the national dances for which Béarn is celebrated, as well as the *pays Basque* which produces *baladins*, famous throughout France for their feats of agility and grace. There is a great

variety of these dances, and those executed by the young men of St. Savin are remarkable in their kind: bands of the dancers go from village to village in the times of *fêtes*, and are much sought after: they appear very like our May-day mummers, or morice dancers, and have probably the same, namely, an eastern origin: instead of Robin Hood, the Chevalier Bayard is the personage represented in their disguise, and a female always appears amongst them, who answers to our Maid Marian: they are covered with flaunting ribbons and hold little flags in their hands:—

Song.

There's not a shepherd can compare
With him who loves me well and true,
French he can speak with such an air
As if the ways of courts he knew:
And if he wore a sword, you'd say
It was the King who passed this way.
If you beheld, beneath our tree,
How he can dance the Mouchicou,—
Good Heaven! it is a sight to see
His Manuget and Passe-pié too!
His match for grace no swain can show
In all the valley of Ossau.
Lest Catty, in the summer day,
The noon-day sun too hot should find,
A bow'r with flow'rs and garlands gay,
By love's own tender hand entwined,
Close to our fold, amidst the shade,
For me that charming shepherd made.

There is considerable variety of style and expression in the poetry of Despourrins, although his subject does not change, being "love, still love." The following might pass for a song by a poet of the school of Suckling:—

Malaye quan te by!

Oh! when I saw thee first,
Too beautiful and gay and bland,
Gathering with thy little hand
The flow'r of May.

Oh! from that day
My passion I have nursed—
'Twas when I saw thee first!

And ever since that time
Thy image will not be forgot,
And care and suffering is my lot;

I know not why
So and am I,
As though to love were crime—
Oh! ever since that time!

Those eyes so sweet and bright
Illume within my trembling breast
A flame that will not let me rest;

Oh! turn away
The dazzling ray—
They give a dang'rous light,
Those eyes so sweet and bright!

Thou hast not learnt to love,
But, cruel and perverse of will,
Thou seek'st but to torment me still.

Faithful in vain
I bear my chain,
Only alas! to prove
Thou hast not learnt to love!

But perhaps one of the most striking of all Despourrins' poems, from the beauty of the patois and the pretty conceits, is the 'Deus attrait d'ne youenne pastoure,' which reminds one of Ronsard's 'Une beauté de quinze ans, enfantine':—

'Tis to a maiden young and fair
That my poor heart has fallen a prey,
And now in tears and sighs of care
Pass all my moments, night and day.

The sun is pale beside her face,
The stars are far less bright than she,
They shine not with so pure a grace,
Nor glow with half her charms to me.

Her eyes are like two souls, all fire,
They dazzle with a living ray,
But ah! their light which I desire
Is turn'd from me by love, away.

Her nose, so delicate and fine,
Is like a dial in the sun,
That throws beneath a shadowy line
To mark the hours that shade has run.

The fairies formed her rosy mouth
And filled it with soft words at will,
And from her bosom breathes the South,
Sweet breath! that steals my reason still.

Her waist is measured by the zone
The Graces long were wont to wear;
And none but love the comb can own,
That smooths the ringlets of her hair.

And when she glides along like air,
Her feet so small so slight are seen,
A little pair of wings, you'd swear,
Were flut'ring where her step has been.

Dear object of my tender care,
My life, my sun, my soul thou art,
Oh! listen to the trembling prayer
That woos thee from this aching heart!

It has been said of the shepherd of the Pyrenees, that he has nothing coarse about him but his dress. The national character is a quick and ready wit, and vivacity in repartee, joined with civility and hospitality to strangers. There are so many superstitions and traditions attached to his mountains and valleys, that his imagination is always at work, and it is only singular that not more poets and romancers have started up amidst such scenes as are always before the eyes of the Béarnese peasant. Rolando and the breach his sword made in the snowy mountain which divides France from the country of the ancient Moors—the print of the foot of the Hypogriff plainly to be seen on one of the peaks—the knights still fighting in the valley of Roncevaux, are favourite subjects in the winter evenings' tales; and in the forests King Arthur is still seen in his enchanted state, witches are known to meet and hold their sabbath in many a gloomy cavern, and the Loup Garou howls to the blast as fiercely as he is said to do in Brittany, where, in the time of the poetess, Marie de France, he was called *Disclaveret*. There is scarcely a dangerous pass, or a secluded vale, where a miraculous virgin does not work miracles even at the present day, and romance abounds everywhere. Nevertheless, it is in pastoral that the Béarnese poets most excel, and the Chevalier Despourrins stands foremost of their order.

Our Mess. Edited by Charles Lever (Harry Lorrequer). Vol. I. *Jack Hinton*. Curry & Co. *The Commissioner; or, de Lunatico Inquirendo*. Ditto.

The hardest condition of the reviewer's lot is the necessity he is under of reading the works which he undertakes to censure or to praise. The irksomeness of this task, in a hundred cases, is so well understood, that it has led to the notion that this preliminary duty of the critic is not universally performed with the due degree of strictness. We are occasionally suspected of deciding literary causes somewhat in the same way that Mr. Justice Bridle-goose was wont to dispose of civil suits, and absolve or condemn by the hazard of the die. For ourselves, we can safely affirm, that we have never adopted the method of trial by the dice-box; but at the same time, we freely acknowledge and confess, that at sundry times we have experienced strange hankers after that simple and expeditious method. Often have we had to wrestle with a fiend at our elbow, tempting us, not to judge first and to read afterwards, but to improve upon the system of Rhadamanthus, and pronounce sentence without hearing or reading at all. Many are the works to which we have sat down with the feeling of sullen desperation experienced by the young lawyer in Red-Gauntlet, when, in compliance with his father's wishes, he addressed himself to the voluminous and interminable cause of Peebles *versus* Plainstones. What carries men through trials of this severe kind, is the sense of moral obligation, when it is sufficiently strong to master the indolent propensities. When we have to face a formidable book, we begin by mustering our moral forces; we summon up our principles of ethics; we put on our Christian armour. "Read," says our conscience; "review," says the fiend, who at times will quote the opinion of Lord Bacon, that some works are to be read by deputy. True; but the tempter forgets that the reviewer in such cases is a deputy himself, and can no more appoint a proxy than a member of the House of Commons, or the vicar of a parish.

We should certainly read the whole tribe of novels that follow the revolutions of the moon

by deputy, if it were allowable so to do. Many of the remarks which we lately offered in noticing 'Handy Andy' will apply to the publications now before us. There is the same eternal straining after some farcical or melo-dramatic effect, to give *éclat* to the number for the month, and split the *sides* "of the groundlings." We cannot designate these writers better than as the pantomimic school. All their women are Columbines, and their men Clowns, Harlequins, or Pantaloon. They are never quiet or in earnest for an instant. Their idea seems to be that a novel should be like the county of Tipperary in disturbed seasons, all hubbub of one description or another, from beginning to end; and accordingly there is not a chapter in which there is not perpetrated some outrage for which the *dramatis personæ* ought either to be sent to a lunatic asylum or the county gaol. Harry Lorrequer ought to be Harry Rollicker. We have laughed at some of his rollickings, but we cannot laugh for ever; and we now declare, that we mean to laugh no more. It is a gross abuse of words to call such helter-skelter effusions novels, and a most absurd mistake to receive them as pictures of any condition or phase of human life. Let any one just cast his eye over the illustrations by Phiz, two of which are prefixed to every monthly part of 'Jack Hinton' (and the same observation will extend to 'The Commissioner'), and he will see a most faithful characterization of the style and spirit of the work. The broadest caricature is properly employed to illustrate the broadest farce. A more appropriate title for 'Jack Hinton' would have been 'Higgledy Piggledy,' with the motto—"A mad world, my masters." But though the world be a mad one, its madness is not always exhibited in the extreme forms. There is a great deal more of serious and sober lunacy than of roaring and rampant frenzy; and ten moping idiots for one tearing maniac. It is certainly judicious to issue works of this description in detachments, for three volumes of these Jacks and Harrys would surpass the digestive powers of the most voracious feeder on broad grins and monstrosities. The only distinction between Jack Hinton and Jack Sheppard, is the difference between all frolic and all horror: but though frolic is far the better of the two, we are not prepared to dance an Irish jig through a century of chapters, particularly when we have our doubts whether our author himself is master of the step. There is here the same one-sided view of Irish manners and society that we have recently had occasion to censure in noticing Mr. Lover's work; and the error is doubtless attributable to the same cause—writing from hearsay, instead of personal knowledge and observation. Another striking resemblance is the unscrupulous interweaving of the most notorious incidents and anecdotes, related at every table, not only in Dublin, but in London, where there happens to be amongst the guests an anecdotal Irishman of "the old school," or traditionally familiar with it. To many, of course, the anecdotes alluded to have been related for the first time in Mr. Lover's riotous pages; and to such 'Jack Hinton' may possibly have been a fund of considerable entertainment; but it is our business to consider the structure of a work of fiction out of such common-place materials as a question of art, and in this point of view we must assign it a very low place indeed amongst the literary productions of the day. We are reduced at present to the very lees of prose fiction; indeed, the cask is so dry, that Diogenes might reside in it, without so much as the smell of wine to disturb his sober speculations.

We should not be surprised, judging from what we have read of the Lever and Lover school, if some entertaining writer were to conceive the notion of fabricating a novel out of the

faciæ of Mr. Joseph Miller. There would be nothing more to do than to call into being some Bob, Tom, or Jerry, to be made the hero of every trick, and the utterer of every waggy; nay, we do not see why the idea should not cross some intrepid mind to impersonate Miller himself, and spin out one incarnate joke for the space of a mortal twelvemonth.

That Mr. Lorrequer has not taken his views of life in Ireland from history, is tolerably plain, from the passage following:—

"Life in Dublin, at the time I write of, was about as gay a thing as a man can well fancy. Less debased than in other countries from partaking of the lighter enjoyments of life, the members of the learned professions mixed much in society; bringing with them stores of anecdote and information unattainable from other sources, they made what elsewhere would have proved the routine of intercourse, a season of intellectual enjoyment. Thus, the politician, the churchman, the barrister and the military man, shaken as they were together in close intimacy, lost individually many of the prejudices of their caste, and learned to converse with a wider and more extended knowledge of the world. While this was so, another element, peculiarly characteristic of the country, had its share in modelling social life: that innate tendency to drollery, that bent to laugh with every one and at every thing, so eminently Irish, was now in the ascendant. From the viceroy downwards, the island was on the broad grin. Every day furnished its share, its quota of merriment. Epigrams, good stories, repartees, and practical jokes, rained in showers over the land. A privy council was a *conversazione* of laughing bishops and droll chief justices. Every trial at the bar, every dinner at the court, every drawing-room, afforded a theme for some ready-witted absurdity; and all the graver business of life was carried on amid this current of unceasing fun and untiring laughter, just as we see the serious catastrophe of a modern opera assisted by the crash of an orchestral accompaniment."

Had this been limited to Dublin, it might pass without remark. Dublin was, no doubt, a gay place in the time of the Duke of Rutland; the viceroys before the Union were much pleasanter fellows, and kept much more agreeable courts, than the viceroys since; but when it is stated that "the *Island* was on the broad grin" in 1784, the position is at variance with the chronicles of the period, and is the result of a rash generalization of incidents belonging entirely to the records of a small metropolitan circle.

However, let us not do the author the injustice of subjecting his work to the laws of criticism applicable to the historical novel. Whether Ireland grinned or not in the days of the Duke of Rutland, 'Jack Hinton' has no other object but to produce that species of muscular contortion on the countenances of his readers. We shall give one of his "broad grins," by way of specimen.

A caricature of a Dublin attorney, hight Mr. Rooney, gives a grand ball, to illustrate and adorn which the aides-de-camp of the Lord Lieutenant are invited. But alas for those "glasses of fashion and moulds of form," a dinner at the castle, and a command play after it, interpose between them and the Rooney revelries. Just as the play is over, the ensuing dialogue takes place:—

"I say, O'Grady," said he, what are these good people about; there seems to be a general move among them. Is there any thing going on? "Yes, your Grace," said Phil, whose impatience now could scarcely be restrained, "they are going to a great ball in Stephen's-green; the most splendid thing Dublin has witnessed these fifty years." "Well, then, don't let me detain you any longer. I see you are both impatient; and faith, if I must confess it, I half envy you; and mind you give me a full report of the proceedings to-morrow morning." "How I wish your Grace could only witness it yourself!" "Eh? Is it so very good then?" "Nothing ever was like it; for,

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although the company is admirable, the host and hostess are matchless.' 'Egad! you've quite excited my curiosity. I say, O'Grady, would they know me, think ye? have you no uncle or country-cousin about my weight and build?' 'Ah, my lord, that is out of the question; you are too well known to assume an incognito; but still, if you wish to see it for a few minutes, nothing could be easier than just to walk through the rooms and come away. The crowd will be such, the thing is quite practicable, done in that way.' 'By Jove, I don't know; but if I thought—' To be sure, as you say, for five minutes or so one might get through. Come, here goes: order up the carriages. Now mind, O'Grady, I am under your management. Do the thing as quietly as you can."

The Duke goes to the ball, and is received by the following exaggeration of a Dublin attorney's lady:—

"As he spoke, the musicians struck up the grand march in Blue Beard, and Mrs. Paul Rooney appeared in the open space, in all the plenitude of her charms—a perfect blaze of rouge, red feathers, and rubies—marching in solemn state. She moved along in time to the music, followed by Paul, whose cunning eyes twinkled with more than a common shrewdness, as he peered here and there through the crowd. They came straight towards where we were standing; and while a whispered murmur ran through the room, the various persons around us drew back, leaving the duke and myself completely isolated. Before his Grace could recover his concealment, Mrs. Rooney stood before him. The music suddenly ceased; while the lady, disposing her petticoats as though the object were to conceal all the company behind her, courtied down to the very floor. 'Ah! your Grace,' uttered in an accent of the most melting tenderness, were the only words she could speak, as she bestowed a look of still more speaking softness. 'Ah, did I ever hope to see the day when your highness would honour—'"

Then the gentleman attorney "enters his appearance" after this fashion:—

"Mrs. Rooney moved gracefully to one side, waving her hand with the air of a magician about to summon an attorney from the earth, when suddenly a change came over his Grace's features; and as he covered his mouth with his handkerchief, it was with the greatest difficulty he refrained from an open burst of laughter. The figure before him was certainly not calculated to suggest gravity. Mr. Paul Rooney for the first time in his life found himself the host of a vicerey, and, amid the fumes of his wine and the excitement of the scene, entertained some very confused notion of certain ceremonies observable on such occasions. He had read of curious observances in the east, and strange forms of etiquette in China, and probably, had the Khan of Tartary dropped in on the evening in question, his memory would have supplied him with some hints for his reception; but with the representative of Britannic majesty, before whom he was so completely overpowered, he could not think of, nor decide upon any thing. A very misty impression flitted through his mind, that people occasionally knelt before a lord lieutenant; but whether they did so at certain moments, or as a general practice, for the life of him he could not tell. While, therefore, the dread of omitting a customary etiquette weighed with him on one hand, the fear of ridicule actuated him on the other; and thus he advanced into the presence with bent knees and a supplicating look eagerly turned towards the Duke, ready at any moment to drop down or stand upright before him as the circumstances might warrant."

Now another touch of Mrs. Rooney:—

"Meanwhile, I could just catch the tones of Mrs. Rooney's voice, explaining to the duke Miss Bellew's pedigree. 'One of the oldest families of the land, your Grace; came over with Romulus and Remus; and, if it were not for Oliver Cromwell and the Dunes—the confounded fiddles lost the rest, and I was left in the dark, to guess what these strange allies had inflicted upon the Bellew family.'"

And again:—

"Ah! my dear!—the Lord forgive me, I mean your Grace. 'I shall never forgive you, Mrs. Rooney, if you change the epithet.' 'Ah! your Grace's worship, them was fine times; and the husband of an O'Toole, in them days, spent more of his time harraying the

country with his troops at his back, than driving about in an old gig full of writs and latitats, with a process-server beside him."

Then there is supper, and rivers of champagne; and the pencil of Phiz exhibits half the company rolling like swine under the tables and chairs, while his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant is tumbling down stairs in quest of his carriage, and his aides-de-camp are pulling Mister Rooney out of a jug of punch, to have him knighted by the tipsy vicerey.

"Into the supper-room we rushed: but what a change was there! The brilliant tables, resplendent with gold plate, candelabras, and flowers, were now despoiled and dismantled. On the floor, among broken glasses, cracked decanters, pyramids of jelly, and pagodas of blanc mange, lay scattered in every attitude the sleeping figures of the late guests. Mrs. Rooney alone maintained her position, seated in a large chair, her eyes closed, a smile of elysian happiness playing upon her lips. Her right arm hung gracefully over the side of the chair, where lately his Grace had kissed her hand at parting: overcome, in all probability, by the more than human happiness of such a moment, she had sunk into slumber, and was murmuring in her dreams such short and broken phrases as the following:—'Ah! happy day.—What will Mrs. Tait say?—The lord mayor, indeed!—Oh! my poor head: I hope it won't be turned.—Holy Agatha, pray for us! your Grace pray for us!—Isn't he a beautiful man? hasn't he the darling white teeth?' 'Where's Paul?' said O'Grady, 'where's Paul, Mrs. Rooney?' as he jogged her rather rudely by the arm. 'Ah! who cares for Paul?' said she, still sleeping: 'don't be bothering me about the like of him.' 'Egad! this is conjugal at any rate,' said Phil. 'I have him!' cried I, 'here he is, as I stumbled over a short, thick figure, who was propped up in a corner of the room. There he sat, his head sunk upon his bosom, his hands listlessly resting on the floor. A large jug stood beside him, in the concoction of whose contents he appeared to have spent the last moments of his waking state. We shook him, and called him by his name, but to no purpose; and, as we lifted up his head, we burst out a-laughing at the droll expression of his face; for he had fallen asleep in the act of squeezing a lemon in his teeth, the half of which not only remained there still, but imparted to his features the twisted and contorted expression that act suggests. As Lord Dudley had gone to order up the carriages, his Grace was standing alone at the foot of the stairs, leaning his back against the bannisters, his eyes opening and shutting alternately as his head nodded every now and then forward, overcome by sleep and the wine he had drunk. Exactly in front of him, but crouching in the attitude of an Indian monster, sat Corny Delany. 'Give me your sword,' said his Grace, turning to me, in a tone half sleeping, half commanding; 'give me your sword, sir.' Drawing it from the scabbard, I presented it respectfully. 'Stand a little on one side, Hinton. Where is he? Ah! quite right. Kneel down, sir; kneel down, I say!'"

This is not extravagant enough, but the honour of knighthood must fall on Corny Delany, a serving-man, whom the representative of majesty mistakes, through the fumes of wine, for the irrecoverable Mr. Rooney.

"Do you hear his Grace?" said I, endeavouring with a sharp kick of my foot to assist his perceptions. 'To be sure I hear him,' said Corny; 'why wouldn't I hear him?' 'Kneel down, then,' said I. 'Devil a bit of me'll kneel down. Don't I know what he's after well enough? Ach na bocklah! Sorrow else he never does nor make fun of people.' 'Kneel down, sir!' said his Grace, in an accent there was no refusing to obey. 'What is your name?' 'O murder! O heavenly Joseph!' cried Corny, as I hurled him down upon his knees, 'that I'd ever lived to see the day!' 'What is his d—d name?' said the duke passionately. 'Corny, your Grace, Corny Delany.' 'There, that'll do,' as with a hearty slap of the sword, not on his shoulder, but on his bullet head, he cried out, 'Rise, sir Corny Delany!'"

Then comes the last trick of the pantomime:— "Leaving Corny to his lamentations, the duke walked towards the door. Here about a hundred people were now assembled, their curiosity excited in no small degree by a picket of light dragoons, who

occupied the middle of the street, and were lying upon the ground, or leaning on their saddles, in all the wearied attitudes of a night-watch. In fact, the duke had forgotten to dismiss his guard of honour, who had accompanied him to the theatre, and thus had spent the dark hours of the night keeping watch and ward over the proud dwelling of the Rooneys. A dark frown settled on the duke's features as he perceived the mistake, and muttered between his teeth, 'how they will talk of this in England!' The next moment, bursting into a hearty fit of laughter, he stepped into the carriage, and amid a loud cheer from the mob, by whom he was recognised, drove rapidly away."

This last incident is, to a certain extent, a matter of fact. It occurred, however, not at the door of a Dublin attorney, but at that of a celebrated Aspasia of the day, who flourished in the same city. This is an instance of the modern method of pressing all manner of wanton pranks and ridiculous transactions into the author's service, so as to produce the maximum of extravagance and farce. It is against this system we wish to protest; and it strikes us that Mr. Lever has powers which might enable him to dispense for a few chapters with his "broad grins." We think he could laugh if he liked; and after a little, he might learn to smile; and thence proceed, by another step, to a little occasional gravity, which would give wonderful zest to his scenes of mirth! His style is, we think, improved since he published 'Harry Lorrequer.' There are fewer flippancies and vulgarisms; he seems to have been made aware that in portraying vulgarity, it is not necessary to be vulgar; and he appears to have made some progress towards amendment in that important point. However, until he attempts something loftier than a *rechauffé* of Dublin table-talk, or a collection of thrice-told anecdotes, kneaded up into a string of adventures, it is idle to speak of him as a writer of fiction, although unquestionably he takes a high rank amongst the antic writers of the day.

As to the other work, 'De Lunatico Inquirendo,' we know no more what the author would be at than the man in the moon; and we feel that we deserve a visit from the Commissioner for our insanity in devoting an hour to its perusal. The idea is good, but the execution feeble beyond measure. The writer mimics Mr. Dickens, and occasionally gives us an appalling touch of Mr. Ainsworth. His Honourable Mr. Fitzurse is as much like the son of an English nobleman, as the son of a Chinese mandarin. The mere names of Jerry Tripe, Joey Pike, Mr. Rotundity, and Mr. Deputy Popeseye, destroy all inclination to make their acquaintance; we know they come of a bad family, and expect nothing from them but offensive vulgarisms and second-hand buffoonery—an expectation which is not disappointed.

Narrative of a Yacht Voyage in the Mediterranean, during the years 1840—41. 2 vols. Murray.

This book will be regarded as another monument of female enterprise by all who hold

The old sea in reverential fear.

They will wonder why one so daintily bred that not the winds of heaven might "visit her face too roughly," should have braved "the roarers" that care not for Nobility, and the penances, privations, and disgusts which are as much part and parcel of the voyager's fare, as the "jasper, turkis, and almondine," of which the Tennysons, and other ocean-lovers, sing so harmoniously. But Lady Grosvenor betrays no traces of the fine lady; she leaves lamentations at inevitable inconveniences to more fastidious travellers. She appears to have troubled herself but little about royal audiences, diplomatic attentions, or consular civilities. Her temper is

good and patient; her eye observant; her artist's hand modest but faithful; and, truly woman-hearted, her courage always moutheth with occasion. Thus she has produced an agreeable book; though it can only be received for what it professes to be, a hurried journal, the writer "not having," as she observes in her dedication, "stayed anywhere long enough to make observations of much research and consequent value."

Our extracts need no further preamble. The first will convey to the reader impressions of *Tanger* :—

"At eleven, A.M., we embarked in the gig to row about a mile and a half to the town; the sea being very rough, and the wind straight against us, we were plentifully sprinkled with salt water, and when we arrived at the shore, found only a shelving gravelly beach to land upon; as to the method of effecting which, some doubts were raised in our minds, added to which a strange, uncouth-looking race were drawn up on the shore: but with the encouragement of the Captain of the Port, a tall old man in the Moorish dress, with a long white beard (well described as an old lion by a former traveller), we at length accomplished it, but were obliged to be carried through the surf by our sailors, and were deposited on the beach in the midst of a most curious scene. Groups of wild-looking negroes and moors were lying about in all kinds of picturesque dresses; some wrapped up in white woollen garments, called 'haiks,' of which they draw a fold over their heads; others in brown and white striped pelisses, with a 'bournous,' or peaked hood, which is an admirable protection against sun or rain. Many of the Moors were handsome, but fierce-looking, with sharp white teeth, and gleaming black eyes. * * * Though it was not one of the best market-days, which are Thursdays and Sundays, the market presented a very curious scene, from the groups of Moors, Arabs, and Jews, standing, sitting, and lying, huddled up in their bournouses, buying and selling. Some look gentle, but the generality have a wild and ferocious expression. The women are completely covered up in their dirty white drapery, and conceal their faces, so that nothing is seen but one eye and their hands and feet, the latter being coarse and ugly; but it is to be observed, that we only saw the lower classes, as the ladies always remain shut up at home. The principal articles for sale were 'comestibles,' innumerable kinds of grain, onions, tomatoes, dates, raisins, egg-plants, and jars of an oily white-looking ointment, which turned out to be butter, perhaps two or three years old, which is supposed to improve the flavour. On the open counter of nearly every shop, there was at least one cat, which the owners keep as a sort of brush to wipe their hands upon; as after measuring out soft yellow soap with those natural implements, they do not scruple to give a handful of raisins, or flower, or rice, all handed out in the same sweetly simple manner, which creates an occasional necessity for an apology of a towel. Almost all the natives had the hair shaved; some wore a large tuft on one side, occasionally lengthened into a plait. The negroes who come from the interior were singularly frightful, in all their varieties, which were many. We mounted by very narrow, tolerably dirty, and shockingly paved streets, to what had been the treasury, a Moorish building, with a cloistered arcade round a court, now in a very ruinous state; thence up to the citadel, where we saw traces of the original walls of *Tanger*, and so on to a graceful and beautiful gateway, looking down a steep hill to the lovely country surrounding the town. The mountains in the distance are covered with low wood, sheltering wild boar; and in the foreground are thickets of stupendous cactuses, with stems like small forest trees; carobs, or the locust tree; fig trees, palmettos, and many other shrubs. * * * In a large ditch below the old walls, in the midst of all this beauty, was a horrid sight and smell, of the carcasses of horses and mules left there to decay."

A large fig-tree was shown to Lady Grosvenor, which served as a sanctuary for people of all religions, "at which the offender, whether a Christian, Jew, or Mohammedan, might find a temporary refuge."

"On returning, a string of camels, loaded with corn from the interior, passed us; and on proceeding to another market-place, on a large sloping hill outside the walls, we found about two hundred camels and their drivers. These were unloading the corn they had brought; and to make the camels kneel down, the driver seizes them by the throat—on which they make a sort of groan, and kneel directly. The poor animals give the idea of suffering from ill-treatment; but generally, animals, even including the horse, appear miserably ill-managed, as the Moors are very brutal. Over all the ground of this market-place, which is much trampled by being the usual resort of the camels, are little mounds of earth, the entrances to the Matamores, or subterranean granaries, where the Moors have kept their grain from time immemorial, and the custom still continues. In these large holes, lined with straw, and about twelve feet deep, the corn, well covered up, keeps good for many years. It is a point of their religion not to steal or profane anything relating to bread or corn. I saw a Moorish woman in the street pick up a bit of bread from the ground, kiss it, and put it in a hole in the wall, under the idea that it might not be lost, but that a bird or something might profit by it."

Lady Grosvenor's excursion to *Granada* is pleasantly described; but Mr. Borrow's Spanish pictures make all others look pale: and it would not be courteous, therefore, to expose a sketcher to such comparison. Another ramble is that to *Ephesus*, detailed in the second volume; of which we shall give the principal portion :—

"We rose at six for our expedition to *Ephesus*, and landed at nine. M. Alexacchi met us on the beach, and we immediately ascended a rugged flight of steps cut in the rock, which led under a wooden roof, with an old vine covered with grapes twisting itself out of the fissures. This almost perpendicular staircase conducted us into a narrow street, and close to the vice-consul's door; and a few more steep steps led down into his house,—an irregular little building, completely overhanging the sea. The saddles were soon arranged; and after having tried the respective merits of a high-peaked Turkish saddle and my own, I preferred the latter. We then set out,—our two selves, the consul's son, the cavassi or guide, and another Turk, who rode with us for company, as it was part of his way to *Ainsoulouk*, just beyond *Ephesus*. The outset was down a sort of paved staircase, called the street, through a small market-place, well provided with vegetables, grain, and dried fruit, by an old wall and fort by the sea, and for some way along the sea-shore, and very pretty, the sea bounding the road on one side, and extensive fields of grain, vegetables, cotton, and pomegranates, with vineyards, on the other; and some camels grazing in the fields. We then ascended a hill of very rugged pavement, crossing a promontory covered with vineyards and cultivation, underwood, and innumerable flowers, down to a valley, in the narrow lane leading to which we met two strings of camels, carrying loads into the town, and led by strange-looking creatures, men and women, like baked clay (which, to be sure, they were): there were two youthful camels,—the adolescent ugly, as they all are, but the infant diabolically hideous; and, to add to its attractions, it began braying at us with the most marked spite. The horses, however, did not care for them any more than for the troops of large stinging flies with which they were covered, and went on very well, trotting, and even cantering whenever the ground was tolerable; and what was of more consequence, with great security and confidence over the pointed and slippery rocks which constituted the road a great part of the way. Soon after passing the camels, we came to a small and pretty plain, or valley of meadows, where were encamped some of the wandering tribes who own no other home than their tents, which are simply a few poles stuck in the ground, with coarse canvases extended as a roof over them, without sides. The owners were lying extended underneath, on their baggage and carpets. They had a large herd of good-looking cattle with them. Beyond this valley we crossed a small stream, and burst on a fine open sweep of the sea-shore, and then struck up further inland, through thickets of the finest myrtles, white with blossom, and oleanders glowing with their rich rose-coloured flowers; these, with cistuses and a thousand other dwarf plants,

were really beautiful. We passed two cool fountains under trees unheeded,—one near a village lately bought by *Tahir Pacha*, the high admiral; and being too fresh on our journey to stop, we continued our course up and down paved pinnacles, like staircases, and through defiles of sharp pointed rocks, which in *England* would be considered hardly practicable even for a foot passenger. Our horses, however, got on with great security, stepping on the very edge of precipices, till at length, having ascended a hill at a distance of about eight miles from *Scala Nuova*, and turning a point, we looked down on the immense plain of the *Cayster*."

The view was wretched in no ordinary degree. The district swarms with reptiles and insects, and the plain is a vast extent of flat ground, one half marsh and stagnant water, "the other a jungle of weeds."

"What remains of *Ephesus* stands in a position elevated above the valley, in a kind of corner formed by a sweep of the hills on the southern side of the plain. In this scene we dismounted; but there was no shade, the sun being nearly vertical; and we reposed ourselves some time under our umbrellas, sitting on a pile of enormous stones, regularly built, and evidently the remains of a massy square foundation, perhaps bases of columns, as they stood at regular distances, with the holes in them for iron cramps. There were also large fragments of walls, and the top of a very large arch appeared out of masses of earth and ruins, which concealed the lower part, probably the accumulation of ages. We inquired of our guide if there were not some columns in the neighbourhood, but he knew nothing whatever of the place. After a little search, however, we found, very near at hand, but concealed by weeds and brambles, two enormous but broken columns, of very fine grained red granite, lying prostrate; and near them two others, of gray granite, equally large and fine, one almost embedded in the earth; the polish of the red granite was the finer of the two, being still quite smooth, and perfect. It was grievous to leave these magnificent relics, unseen and unvalued, amidst this chaos of desolation; but we did not possess the power which had transported, ages back, some of the columns of *Diana's temple* to *Stamboul*, where they still decorate the mosque of *Santa Sophia*; so we struggled on, through thickets of stiff thorny bushes; and when one foot approached the ground, it perhaps plunged deep into a hole, while the other attained the sharp edge of some enormous block, the bushes all the time seizing and detaining our clothes, with the addition of slippery grasses growing in loops, to embarrass our course, and forests of thistles, which we measured, and found to be eight and nine feet high, with immense purple heads like artichokes; this mode of progression in a broiling sun, prolonged for two or three hours, was a very fatiguing operation, though the scene more than repaid us for our trouble. We passed a group of three broken columns of gray granite, standing upright, and, a little beyond, four others of the same kind. We found also the arch so accurately described by *Tournefort*; it is of a good style of architecture, with a dilapidated frieze, which, old as it is, was evidently made out of the remains of something much older. * * * On proceeding to the left, northward, from this arch, we came upon what is evidently the site of the *Circus*; it is six hundred and eighty-seven feet in length, and still perfectly defined as to size, shape, and boundary. An immense vaulted subterranean passage or gallery runs along on the northern side, which still remains to some extent in good preservation, with a large arch for an entrance. The walls are of great thickness, with old fig-trees growing out of them. The space within the circus was cultivated with corn. Immediately beyond this, and terminating the buildings altogether on this side above the valley, rises an immense raised platform, terminating in an abrupt cliff overlooking the whole of the plain; its foundation was the rock, assisted by masonry. I believe that the *Temple of Diana* is supposed by those who are best informed, to have been in another direction, but no indication or trace now remains by which its site can be positively ascertained,—no vestige left of its hundred and twenty-seven columns of *Parian marble*, each sixty feet high, and composed of a single shaft, forming one of the seven wonders of

the world; but if this were not the site of that renowned temple, still it must have been that of some very distinguished building, from the solidity of its foundations, which comprise an immense mass of masonry, consisting of gigantic hewn stones, still presenting a perfectly smooth surface. In fact, the spot is like a small mountain with a flat surface, on which rested the ancient building, whatever may have been its destination. One very broad lower terrace runs along its front, on the side looking to the river; and on the surface of the upper building still remain, at regular intervals, large blocks of marble, built together, probably as foundations for columns, or piers of arches; and on the terrace beneath, existed most likely another row of colonnades with steps leading down to it. Nothing can be conceived finer or grander than these lonely and mysterious remains."

Here we must take leave of this book. Its authoress modestly disclaims the idea of its possessing any permanent value: but to us it has its value and interest, as marking the progress of feminine cultivation and accomplishment in England.

Memoirs of the Literary Ladies of England. From the Commencement of the Last Century. By Mrs. Elwood. 2 vols. Colburn.

AMONG the revolutions which literature has undergone within the period embraced by these volumes, the share which women have assumed in its labours is not the least striking; nor can there be much hesitation in assigning to this cause, in a considerable degree, that other change in public opinion, now progressing with a railroad rapidity, concerning the general rights and duties of the sex.

Between the literary women of the present day and their predecessors, there is, with few exceptions, a remarkable difference, which suggests itself on a glance at the personages selected by Mrs. Elwood for illustration. At the commencement of the century, not only was the female writer a more rare and exceptional character, but she appears to have, in some degree, assumed the peculiarities of the opposite sex, as a qualification for her task; the blue-stocking lady of that time resembling an old gentleman in petticoats, much more nearly than a proper woman, both in her deportment, and in her choice of subjects. A man's education, she appears more or less to have deemed a necessary preliminary for writing: translation from the learned languages, criticism, or, still more frequently, theology, was her chosen arena; and Bishops and other dignified divines were her favourite associates. On the other hand, the female wits and play-writers, who flourished at or about the commencement of the century, if they unavoidably suffered to transpire in their writings, somewhat more of their feminine characteristics, still strove to emulate their male contemporaries in freedom of thought and of speech (not to say licentiousness), and sometimes even in a masculine cynicism of personal morals. Mrs. Elwood takes up her subject with the biography of Lady Mary W. Stuart; who, although in her letters sufficiently a woman, was, in her poetry, a man for hardihood and independence; and she assiduously strove to rival the male poets and wits of her day. But she and Mrs. Sheridan are the only writers among the several individuals noticed in the present work, before we come to Mrs. Charlotte Smith, who afford the semblance of an exception to our remark. It should seem, therefore, as if the female author was considered as an interloper, and as in some degree losing caste by her daring; nor was the idea altogether false, as long as authorship involved this stepping out of self, this assumption of something foreign and almost unnatural.

It was not very long before the period of the French revolution, that female literature began

to exhibit more of a character of its own;—that the writings of women began, generally, to assume the genuine characteristics of the sex, and to reflect the proper qualities and the impulses of the female intellect. The peculiar *finesse* of observation and intuitive penetration into the innermost recesses of the human heart, so characteristic in females, and first turned to account by them in works of poetic and prose fiction, have gradually been brought to bear upon subjects of graver and more extended interest; and their warm and impulsive eloquence, and their rapid and comprehensive glances at truth, have formed a valuable supplement to the colder and more logical forms of masculine literature, and have contributed much in advancing the march of civilization. If the peculiar attributes of the female intellect be a necessary complement to those of the male, and adapted by nature to forward the woman's mission of helpmate, there is no reason why her influence should not prove as beneficial in perfecting the literature of nations, as it has been acknowledged to be in refining domestic manners and purifying morality. It would not, indeed, be very difficult to show that within the petty space embraced by a portion only of the volumes before us, the beneficial influence of the sex upon literature may be traced, not only in style and external peculiarity, but in a substantive purity of sentiment and elegance of thought. It has been productive of a nicer respect, not merely for the rights, but for the feelings and the infirmities of others; it has developed a wider range and a warmer glow of human sympathies; and if it has not added much to the accuracy of prevailing metaphysical notions, or extended the scope of the higher philosophy, it has clothed them occasionally in more graceful forms, and brought them into closer contact with general readers.

In looking for the causes of the present unceasing literary activity of the sex, the development of the book trade comes prominently into notice. In glancing even at the very limited view presented of the subject by Mrs. Elwood, we arrive at the painful conclusion, that the availability of literary talent as a pecuniary resource, and not the idle though laudable impulse of vanity, has been the most effective inspiration of the sex, and called forth, not only the most numerous, but the best female contributors to the modern press. Adopted as the means of personal independence, or still more frequently as a means of assisting and providing for others, the literary energies of women have been seen as the consequences of their moral elasticity, of their intense feeling concerning the obligations of duty, and of the warmth of their honest and devoted sympathies. Of those among the females recorded in Mrs. Elwood's pages who have turned a carefully conducted course of study, or (as it is termed) a regular education, and a wealthy leisure to the account of literature, there are few whose productions (however respectable) can compare with those of the women who have written under opposite circumstances; yet, large as have been the claims made by the latter on our admiration, in their qualities of authors, more vivid still has been the sense they have inspired of their excellence as women.

On this latter account, if on no other, we must wish that the subject had fallen into hands more capable, or more willing to do it justice, and to draw large and just views from the particular facts to be recorded. The work before us is a mere compilation, from sources neither rare nor difficult of access. It is evidently one of a rather rapid series of publications, which have lately appeared to meet a growing market. Woman is the heroine of the day; and the lives of queens, literary women, or of women remarkable in any station of life, are greedily bought and

perused by the public. Booksellers are shrewd guessers on this point, but they are more bent upon enlarging the quantity, than improving the quality of the supply. One consequence to be expected from this mercantile view, is an over-scrupulous attention to the prudery and sham delicacy of the age, an avoidance of persons and of themes, which, however disagreeable to the squeamish, may be necessary to the whole philosophy and the whole morality of the subject. The number of female authors, who, by their writings or their personal misconduct, have brought disgrace on the sex, are as nothing when compared to those who have exercised their calling honourably, amid scenes of difficulty and privation, with an unwearied industry and an unsullied virtue. But though thus exceptional, they still present one aspect of the social position of women too important in its bearings on general humanity to be contemptuously disregarded.

How far a fear of giving offence may in some instances have influenced Mrs. Elwood's selection, we cannot undertake to say; but a merely passing and hurried retrospect calls to recollection a vast number of her omissions, for which even this cause cannot be assigned. Why, for instance is Mrs. Cowley omitted, whose 'Belle's Stratagem' was the precursor of 'The School for Scandal,' and to whom Sheridan was indebted for more than he has acknowledged? Mrs. Macaulay, too, the historian, why is she excluded? The Misses Lee, whose 'Werner' gave Byron the first idea of his tragedy of the same name, were *omni exceptione majores*; and the authoress of 'The Recess,' more especially, was well entitled to a respectful notice. Then we have no account of Mrs. Pilkington, and Mrs. Grierson, the friends and companions of Swift, nor of Mrs. Griffith, the author of the Letters of Henry and Frances; no word of Clara Reeve, who produced that delight of our early infancy, 'The Old English Baron'; none of Lady Wallace, of Mrs. Bennet, whose 'Beggars' and numerous other novels, were eagerly read by our mothers; none of the Margravine of Anspach, of Mrs. Lenox, who produced 'The Female Quixote'; none of the authoress of 'The Life of Petrarch'; none of Miss Plumtree, Priscilla Wakefield, or Helen Maria Williams, *cum multis aliis*. Mrs. Centlivre was living in the eighteenth century; but "the cook's wife," the witty writer of the 'Bold Stroke for a Wife,' a comedy that yet keeps its place on the stage, was probably tabooed, as without the circle of literary proprieties.

While, however, on this subject of omissions, we must mention one for which we are thankful to Mrs. Elwood. In these times of catch-penny literature, the biography of living writers affords a tempting theme; and the compiler has shown as much taste as good feeling in forbearing to enter on it. Independently of the doubtful morality of tampering with the feelings of the parties by dragging their private life before the public, there are good literary reasons for leaving to the living authoress a priority in the narration of her own story. There is no reading so delightful as auto-biography; and when conducted with candour and philosophy, none more suggestive or profitable. For the rest, if there is no originality in these memoirs, it is because the greater number of the subjects have been too amply or too recently handled to admit of novelty; and the authoress has too freely employed inverted commas to designate her borrowings from her predecessors, to admit of the reproach of wearing false colours. The volumes, it is frankly avowed, "are intended only for such of her sex, who, not feeling themselves equal to profound and abstract subjects, can derive amusement and information from what is professedly too light for the learned, or too simple for the studious." Humbler preten-

sions could not well be put forward; we are grieved to be obliged to add, that the volumes would not have justified higher.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

System of Universal Geography, founded on the Work of Malte-Brun and Balbi, &c.—This volume presents us with an abridgment of the celebrated work of Malte-Brun, an inestimable work of its kind, and which loses nothing of its real value by judicious curtailment. The task of reducing within just limits the somewhat prolix eloquence of the learned Dane, has been ably executed by the editor of this volume, which, though we have styled it an abridgment, yet extends to more than a thousand closely printed pages. It has an index also, which contains more names than are to be found in most gazetteers. We perceive that the editor (Mr. James Laurie) affects to slight Malte-Brun, and would lead us to suppose that he has rather taken Balbi as his guide and chief authority. There is certainly a great charm in novelty, and the last-named writer has the undoubted advantage of having been recently in fashion; but we cannot concede all the praise which is claimed for him on the score of perspicuity and systematic arrangement. System and perspicuity, when in their proper places, follow after accurate knowledge; but this is often wanting in geography; and therefore a geographical writer who affects, like Balbi, to go on every occasion into exact details and to exhibit complete arrangements, must often have recourse to conjecture and sacrifice authenticity to a show of completeness. It is with geographical treatises as with maps; the most trustworthy and honest will present the greatest number of blanks and most marks of doubt and uncertainty. But we have no wish to hint disapprobation in this instance, nor to seek for blemishes in a work the careful elaboration of which is equal to its utility. We think that the editor of the 'System of Universal Geography' is fully justified in assuming that "in respect of accuracy and extent of information, the present work will be found, at the least, not inferior to any similar publication."

History of the Church of Christ, by H. Stebbing, D.D. 3 vols.—It is to be regretted that Dr. Stebbing appears here as the continuator of Milner, and not as the author of an independent work: he is superior to his predecessors in discrimination and the due estimate of authorities, and he is free from that spirit of sectarian partisanship which led the Milners to exclude from the Church of Christ those who did not hold every article of their Calvinistic creed. Still Dr. Stebbing has obviously felt himself trammelled by opinions and sentiments previously set forth, and has been obliged to insinuate rather than state directly his own views on many points of great ecclesiastical importance. Incidentally we learn that he contemplates writing an Ecclesiastical History entirely original, and we shall reserve for its appearance an examination of the theory of a Church which he has here shadowed forth.

Liebig's Organic Chemistry.—We have already noticed the translations which have appeared of Liebig's invaluable works; but it is only within these few days that we have seen a copy of the Organic Chemistry in the original German. We were so much struck with the dedication to Alexander von Humboldt, and the interesting account therein given of Liebig's first acquaintance with that great and excellent man, and the influence which it exerted on his subsequent career, that we have translated it, for the purpose of making it known in England. And we cannot but express our regret that it was omitted in the excellent translation of the work; because, at the same time that it reflected honour on the author, it would, to a considerable extent, have removed the unfavourable impression entertained by some persons that Liebig assumed more to himself than was altogether just, and forgot or overlooked the labours of his predecessors:—

To A. von Humboldt.

During my residence in Paris, in the winter of 1823, I was successful in having an account of an analytical examination of Howard's "Fulminating Compounds of Silver and Mercury," my first investigation, read before the Royal Academy. At the close of the meeting (on the 24th of

March, 1824), whilst I was occupied in collecting together my preparations, a gentleman approached from amongst the members of the Academy, and entered into conversation with me. With the most winning friendliness, he drew from me an account of the object of my studies, my occupations, and my plans; we separated, without my venturing to ask, through shyness and inexperience, the name of him who had so kindly taken an interest in me. This conversation was the foundation of my subsequent career; I had gained for my scientific pursuits a most powerful and amiable friend and patron. You had returned only the day before from a tour in Italy; no one was aware of your presence. Unknown, without introductions, in a city where the assemblage of so many persons, from all parts of the world, is the greatest obstacle to an intimate acquaintance with the distinguished and learned philosophers assembled there, I, like so many others, might have remained unnoticed in the crowd, and perhaps lost altogether; this danger was now completely removed. From that day every door, every institution and laboratory, was open to me; the lively interest which you honoured me with gained me the affection and intimate friendship of my much esteemed teachers Gay-Lussac, Dulong, and Thenard. Your good opinion smoothed the path to a sphere of usefulness which for the last sixteen years I have incessantly laboured worthily to occupy. How many whom I know have, like myself, to thank you for patronage and favour in the prosecution of their scientific inquiries! The chemist, the botanist, the natural philosopher, the traveller to Persia and India, the artist, all rejoiced in the same advantages, the same patronage; with you there was no distinction of nations or countries. The world in general does not know how deeply Science is indebted to you in this respect, but it is for ever engraven in our hearts. May I be permitted thus publicly to express the profound respect, the sincere and pure gratitude which I feel. I hardly know if I can claim as my own any part of this little work which I take the liberty of dedicating to you. When I read the introduction which, forty-two years ago, you wrote to Ingenhousz's book 'On the Nutrition of Plants,' it always appears to me as if, in fact, I had merely endeavoured to extend and verify the views which were there put forth by the most zealous and active philosopher of the age. I received from the British Association, at their meeting at Liverpool in 1837, the flattering request to draw up a report on the present state of our knowledge of organic chemistry. At my proposal, the Association agreed to invite M. Dumas, of Paris, a Member of the Royal Academy, to undertake, in conjunction with me, the drawing up of this report. This was the original cause which led to the publication of the present book; I have endeavoured to describe in it the relation of Organic Chemistry to Vegetable Physiology and Agriculture, as well as the changes which organic substances undergo in the processes of fermentation, decay, and putrefaction. At a time like the present, when that restless striving after novelties, which are so frequently worthless, scarcely permits the rising generation to bestow even a cursory glance on the foundations which support so noble and mighty a structure; and when even those foundations themselves can hardly be distinguished by the ordinary observer, disguised as they are by external ornaments; when at such a time an intruder in branches of Science hitherto foreign to himself, dares to direct the attention and powers of naturalists to subjects which ought long ago to have been made the end and object of their exertions and labours, it is impossible to feel sure of success; for although the desire of man to do good knows no limits, his means and his abilities are confined to narrow bounds. Quite independent of the original observations which I have brought forward in this work, it would afford me the greatest satisfaction if the philosophical principles which I have applied to the growth and nutrition of plants should be found worthy of your approbation.

Giessen, Aug. 1, 1840.

T. LIEBIG.

Milford Malvoisin, by F. E. Paget, M.A.—Mr. Paget possesses an extraordinary faculty in deducing right conclusions from wrong premises. In his present tale he takes the field against pews, and particularly those monstrous wooden closets which disfigure so many of our country churches. By some process

of reasoning peculiar to himself, he identifies the cause of pews with that of the Puritans in Cromwell's days and of the evangelical party in our own. Surely he ought to have known that the Puritans were strenuously opposed to maintaining any distinction of rank in sacred edifices, and insisted that every assembly for divine worship should realize the holy declaration, "The rich and the poor meet together; God is the maker of them all."

Intimidation; a Political Satire, by Cato the Censor.—There are few of the forms of literary composition in which success is more certain than satire; but then, the reason is one by no means calculated to recommend it to general adoption. A satire *manqué*, it should be remembered, is a satire, still—only not wounding in the direction which the author intended. The sarcasm aimed against another, if it fails to pierce, rebounds upon the party aiming it:—and he who "writes down" his neighbour "an ass," if he do not succeed in pinning the label to that neighbour's back, must keep it for himself. Satire is a two-edged weapon—and has a very sharp handle; and he who meddles with it, not being dexterous, is sure to do himself a mischief. The present satire, as its author calls it, does not deserve to have much said of it, in any way. The satirist is by no means so dangerous a person as he thinks himself; and we do not see that any body is much hurt in this onslaught. He threatens to do a great deal more yet, in the "cut-and-thrust" way:—but, so far, none of his opponents are any the worse; and, we think, if he will examine his own fingers, he will find that he has cut them in two or three places.

The Fair Chinese Maid; a Tale of Macao, by an Officer in China.—This first canto of a poem was written, its author states, to beguile an idle fortnight on shipboard; and under such circumstances, perhaps no more need be said about it. Idleness is the avowed parent of many a folly; and may be admitted to take the blame of this among the rest. The author laments that a return to active life prevented his carrying the matter beyond the first canto; but promises a second, in case the English public shall express any great anxiety for it. Our advice to him, on their behalf, is, that if he can find any other occupation for his time, to think no more about the Chinese Maid.

Verses, Original and Translated, by Rebecca Lee.—*Original Poems and Songs*, by James Lemon.—*The Island Minstrel*, by H. Fitzherbert.—We have strung these volumes together, for no better reason than that we know not what else to do with them,—and that they have the common attributes of poetical exterior, and sounds, obtained, on the principle of the drum, from emptiness. Perhaps it is scarcely fair to class the first of them with the other two; but, to say that the lady's muse is a trifle better instructed than these its accidental companions, is praise not worth her having—and yet the best we can afford. Of the volumes second and third on the list, it is a waste of time even to write the titles.

Stow's Survey of London, edited by W. J. Thoms, Esq.—Although we would not willingly "swear by" Master Stow, we have, notwithstanding, a respect for our ancient antiquary; and are glad to welcome a reprint of his famous "Survey." Stow, indeed, deserves credit for what he did, for his diligence was great; and his care, in seeking for original documents, rebukes the indolence of the later historians of London, who are content to copy what has been already gleaned. In addition to this, the Survey contains much valuable information which we might seek for in vain elsewhere; and many notices of buildings, of which every vestige has been swept away. The present edition is reprinted from that "increased with divers rare notes of antiquity," published in 1603, and is illustrated by some curious and interesting notes by the editor, who has also prefixed a memoir of worthy Master Stow. The work is cheap, and neatly got up, and we can recommend it to the public.

Almanacks.—Our record is not yet perfect. *Punch* now offers a substantial *Pocket Book*, with all the customary attractions in the way of usefulness, and a small volume, in addition, of his own peculiar wares,—Mr. Van Voort, the *Naturalist's Pocket Almanack*,—and Messrs. Howlett & Son tempt the ladies with the *Victoria Almanack*, printed in gold on a purple ground.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL for DECEMBER, kept by the Assistant Secretary, at the Apartments of the Royal Society,
BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.

1842. Dec.	9 o'clock, A.M.			3 o'clock, P.M.			Dew Point at 9 A.M. deg. Fahr.	Diff. of Wet and Dry Bulb Ther.	External Thermometers.				Rain in inches. Read off at 9 A.M.	Direction of the Wind at 9 A.M.	REMARKS.
	Barometer uncorrected.			Barometer uncorrected.					Fahrenheit. Self-registering						
	Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.	Att. Ther.	Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.	Att. Ther.			9 A.M. 3 P.M. Lowest Highest						
T 1	30.062	30.054	47.8	30.036	30.030	49.5	46	01.3	49.7	51.5	43.3	51.0		SE	{ A.M. Cloudy—very slight rain—brisk wind. P.M. Overcast—brisk wind. Evening, The same.
○ F 2	30.110	30.102	51.6	30.108	30.100	52.9	49	02.2	52.0	54.3	49.8	55.0		SSE	{ A.M. Overcast—very slight rain—brisk wind—high wind throughout the night. P.M. Cloudy. Evening, Fine and starlight.
S 3	30.252	30.246	50.0	30.318	30.310	51.0	46	02.0	46.7	52.8	45.5	56.3		S	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Cloudy—deposition—light wind. Evening, Thick fog.
○ 4	30.454	30.446	50.0	30.406	30.398	51.0	47	01.3	47.7	50.7	44.4	54.7		W	{ A.M. Lt. fog & wind. P.M. Cloudy—lt. wind. Ev. Lt. fog & wind.
M 5	30.344	30.336	49.4	30.286	30.280	50.2	44	01.5	44.7	49.3	44.6	52.6		SSW	{ A.M. Lightly overcast—lt. wind. P.M. Clldy.—lt. wind. Ev. Thick fog.
T 6	30.264	30.256	47.8	30.226	30.218	47.4	43	01.3	41.3	41.3	40.8	50.6		SSE	{ A.M. Overcast—deposition—lt. fog. P.M. Thick fog. Ev. The same.
W 7	30.350	30.342	45.2	30.352	30.344	45.0	38	01.6	39.5	40.3	37.8	42.8		W	{ Light fog and wind throughout the day. Evening, The same.
T 8	30.442	30.434	43.6	30.422	30.416	43.7	39	01.4	37.3	39.8	36.0	41.6		W	{ Thick fog—light wind nearly the whole of the day. Evening, Starlight—light fog.
F 9	30.424	30.418	43.8	30.372	30.364	44.6	40	02.1	41.7	43.7	36.6	43.2		W	{ A.M. Light fog and wind. P.M. Overcast—lt. wind. Ev. Light fog.
S 10	30.256	30.250	43.8	30.212	30.204	43.6	38	02.1	37.8	38.8	37.5	45.0		SE	{ Cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Lightly overcast.
○ 11	30.026	30.018	42.3	29.956	29.950	43.0	38	01.0	38.7	42.4	37.3	40.8		E	{ Overcast—lt. wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—slight rain.
M 12	29.820	29.814	45.0	29.906	29.900	48.2	43	02.4	50.3	54.4	38.8	51.5	.269	SE	{ Overcast—slight rain—brisk wind nearly the whole of the day. Evening, Overcast.
T 13	30.076	30.070	51.3	30.066	30.058	52.0	48	02.0	51.6	54.8	38.8	56.5		SE	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds. P.M. Fine—nearly cloudless—light wind. Evening, Fine and starlight—light clouds.
W 14	30.144	30.136	51.3	30.134	30.126	52.0	48	01.4	49.8	53.7	49.2	57.5		SE	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Evening, Fine and starlight.
T 15	30.164	30.156	50.2	30.160	30.152	51.5	46	02.3	48.3	52.8	46.8	55.0		S	{ Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Evening, Cloudy.
F 16	30.090	30.082	51.3	30.014	30.006	52.3	48	02.6	50.0	53.8	47.7	54.6		S	{ Overcast—light wind throughout the day. Ev. Cloudy—slight rain.
○ S 17	30.002	29.994	52.3	30.110	30.102	52.6	48	02.5	50.5	54.4	50.2	55.6	.050	SSW	{ Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and moonlight—light clouds.
○ 18	30.314	30.306	47.8	30.332	30.328	48.0	42	01.2	39.4	46.3	39.3	52.6		S	{ Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and moonlight.
M 19	30.518	30.512	45.6	30.514	30.506	46.0	40	00.8	39.3	44.3	39.0	46.0		W	{ A.M. Overcast—light fog. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Ev. Cloudy.
T 20	30.430	30.422	45.3	30.400	30.392	46.6	43	01.4	45.7	50.2	39.0	46.4		S	{ Overcast—deposition—lt. wind throughout the day. Ev. The same.
W 21	30.328	30.320	49.3	30.320	30.312	50.5	46	00.8	51.3	53.0	39.0	51.4		W	{ Overcast—lt. wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—deposition.
T 22	30.194	30.186	51.5	30.068	30.060	51.8	46	01.2	50.2	51.7	49.0	56.3		S	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Fine—nearly cloudless. Evening, Overcast.
F 23	29.636	29.630	51.3	29.586	29.580	51.3	48	01.5	47.4	46.4	47.6	53.8	.075	S	{ A.M. Overcast—slight rain. P.M. Overcast—deposition. Ev. Fine.
S 24	29.696	29.690	45.8	29.722	29.714	45.7	39	01.6	36.7	41.7	36.2	47.4	.097	S	{ A.M. Fine—nearly cloudless—light wind and frost. P.M. Fine—nearly cloudless. Evening, Fine and starlight.
○ 25	29.848	29.842	42.0	29.742	29.738	44.0	37	01.7	36.7	46.3	35.0	42.4		S	{ A.M. Fine—nearly cloudless—light wind and frost. P.M. Overcast—lt. wind. Ev. Overcast—very fine rain—high wind.
M 26	29.566	29.560	46.7	29.428	29.422	48.0	45	02.0	48.8	48.7	37.3	50.3	.022	S var.	{ A.M. Overcast—high wind, as also during the night. P.M. The same, with slight rain. Evening, The same. [lt. fog.]
T 27	29.364	29.356	47.5	29.482	29.476	48.0	43	01.6	43.7	45.7	44.0	50.6	.161	S	{ A.M. Overcast—lt. rain & wind. P.M. Fine—lt. clld. Ev. Starlight—A.M. Fine—light clouds—fog and wind. P.M. Fine—nearly cloudless. Evening, Fine and starlight.
W 28	30.030	30.024	42.8	30.126	30.118	43.0	36	01.4	35.0	41.3	34.7	47.0		W	{ Overcast—light brisk wind nearly the whole of the day; early part, very slight rain. Evening, Overcast.
T 29	30.152	30.146	43.0	30.152	30.144	44.7	42	02.2	47.0	50.7	35.4	48.2		SW	{ Cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Overcast.
F 30	30.222	30.216	47.4	30.212	30.206	49.4	45	02.5	52.3	54.3	47.2	53.3		S var.	{ Cloudy—brisk wind throughout the day. Evening, Early part, slight rain; after, fine and starlight.
○ S 31	30.144	30.140	50.3	30.046	30.040	51.3	47	01.9	51.3	54.3	50.6	55.4		S var.	
MEAN.	30.120	30.113	47.5	30.103	30.097	48.4	44	01.7	45.2	48.3	41.9	50.5	.074	Sum.	Mean Barometer corrected { 9 A.M. 3 P.M. F. 30.073 .. 30.053 C. 30.065 .. 30.047

Note.—The daily observations are recorded just as they are read off from the scale, without the application of any correction whatever.

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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Leipsic, Dec. 13, 1842.

I am tempted to send you a few lines, to correct some erroneous impressions which several notices that have lately appeared in the *Athenæum* are apt to create among your numerous readers. First, as to the splendid Walhalla erected by the King of Bavaria, and which is to be a temple of honour for all Germans of merit. Do you know the fact that the King has rejected the statue of Luther, notwithstanding his undisputed greatness as the reformer, not only of the Church, but of the German language? The publication of Luther's works marks a new era in German literature. But Luther was the enemy of Rome, and therefore he is refused those honours which he and Melancthon so eminently deserve. I do not know whether many of your readers are aware of the very curious and peculiar style of King Ludwig's German poem, but it is very similar to what the Spaniards call "gorgorismo." The prospectus of the Walhalla, "*Die Walhallen-Gesellschaft durch König Ludwig von Bayern*," has called forth a review in the *Deutsche Jahrbücher*, which so closely imitates and so admirably ridicules the prospectus, that many thousand copies have been sold,—the latter is, of course, prohibited in Bavaria. The King's poetry, as you possibly know, has called forth a witty satire by Ottinger, in which it is stated that a riot, which the police strove in vain to suppress, was dispersed by the reading aloud of King Ludwig's poem; everybody ran away!

Other mistakes are, I see, current in England. Thus, with respect to the report on the greater liberty granted to the press in Prussia, your informant states, that "all writings of more than twenty leaves, are to be exempt from censorship." For "leaves" read *sheets*. And in order to show how the law is worked, I shall translate for you a paragraph which appeared in the official journal of the German book-

trade (*Boersenblatt für den deutschen Buchhandel*), dated Leipsic, Dec. 2, 1842:—"Berlin, Nov. 26, 1842.—The police-office of this city has to-day prohibited the sale and advertising of 'Bruno Bauer und seine Gegner,' (B. Bauer and his antagonists,) by Edgar Bauer, published by Jonas, and all copies have been seized provisionally. This book, having received the imprimatur of the Berlin censor, we are taught by this case what is understood by 'conditional liberty of the press.' A previous number of the same official journal complained of the almost daily visits of the Prussian police officers. This is the real state of the liberty of the press in Prussia. That of Saxony is a shade, but only a shade, better."

Of literary news there is not much; a new novel, 'Thomas Tyrnau,' by the authoress of 'Gadwic Castle,' has lately appeared, and the whole of the first edition was sold in a few days, notwithstanding its price of about twenty shillings sterling, which represents at least two guineas. Who would pay two guineas for a novel in England?

The sale of English works of light literature, never of any great importance, is annihilated in Germany by the reprints which are published by D. Tauchnitz, of this city. Thus, Dickens's 'American Notes' and Cooper's 'Jack O' Lantern' were republished here, about a fortnight after they had appeared in London, at eightpence each, very neatly and correctly printed! It is understood, however, that Mr. Forbes, who represents the British government at Dresden, is to propose a treaty for international copyright, and there is little doubt but he will succeed. Mr. Forbes ought certainly to do something for the many thousand pounds of salary which he has received in the course of the fifteen years during which he has held the sinecure place of British Minister to the Court of Saxony.

Hervégh, the author of 'Lieder eines Lebenden,' poems full of the fire of liberty, and which are prohib-

ited in Prussia, lately visited Berlin, where he is to marry a rich Jewess, and was presented to the King by special command. He was introduced by his countryman, the celebrated Prof. Schoenbein, physician to His Majesty. "You have given me some severe pills," said the King, "but they are neither as bitter nor as brightly gilt as some which I have been obliged to swallow by order of your friend the Doctor there." The speeches of the King of Prussia have been printed, with a running commentary, but they were seized "provisionally" before they could be issued!

Dr. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy has been appointed to the post of Director-General of Sacred and Church Music. You know he is a Jew,—so are Neander and Benary, the two most popular Professors of Theology in the University of Berlin!

All the German savants have been much astonished to learn that Count Léon de Laborde has been elected a member of the French Academy; the superficiality of this young man has been pilloried by Salzman and Zanz in a manner which must certainly startle the Academicians.

When at Berlin lately, I visited the Exhibition of Pictures by Living Artists. Among about 500 "works of art," there were not more than a dozen of great merit. "Huss before the Council of Constance," by Lessing, of Düsseldorf; a scene from the humorous poem 'Die Jobsade,' representing the examination of a candidate for holy orders, by Hasencloever, of the same school; 'The Abdication of Charles V.' by Galliot; and 'The Signing of the Compromise' (the beginning of the revolt of the Netherlands under Philip II.), by De Biefac, both Belgian artists, are pictures which will immortalize their authors. By the bye, some of Lord Westmoreland's music has been performed with great success. You know he is your Minister at the court of Prussia.

THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION.

[Suggested by an extract from the Bechmana Mission, which appeared in the *Athenæum*, No. 777.]

Thy voice hath filled our forest shades,
Child of the sunless shore,
For never heard the ancient glades
Such wondrous words before:
Though bards beneath our palms have poured
Their tales of joy or dread,
Yet thou alone the land hast cheered
With tidings of the dead.

The men of old who slept in death
Before the forests grew,
Whose glory faded from the earth
While yet the hills were new;
The warriors famed in battles o'er,
Of whom our fathers spake,
The wise, whose wisdom shines no more,
Stranger, will they awake?

The foes who fell in thousand fields
Beneath my conquering brand,
Whose bones have strewn the Caffer's hills,
The Bushman's lonely land,
The young who shared my path of fame,
But found an early urn,
And the roses of my youth's bright dream,
Stranger, will they return?

My mother's face was fair to see,
My father's glance was bright,
But long ago the grave from me
Hath hid that blessed light;
Yet sweeter was the sunshine shed
By my lost children's eyes,
That beam upon me from the dead,—
Stranger, will they arise?

Was it some green grave's early guest,
Who loved thee long and well,
That left the land of dreamless rest,
Such blessed truths to tell?
For ours have been the wise and brave,
Who feared not Death's abyss;
The strong in hope, the true in love,
But none that dreamt of this.

Yet, if the grave restore to life
Her ransomed spoils again,
And ever hide the hate and strife
That died with wayward men;
Thou hast, my spirit, missed the star
That guides our steps above,
Since only earth was given to War,
That better land, to Love.

FRANCES BROWN.

ART-UNIONS.

Mrs. Parkes is a woman after our own heart: not a word will she retract, for love or interest, if she believes that word to be true. Last week we published Mr. Moon's letter—this week we have her rejoinder, a Rowland for his Oliver.

Respecting the hint in Mr. Moon's letter, that Mrs. Parkes had offered her stock to Mr. Lloyd, for the use of the "National," she states, that it is "entirely false," and gives some reasons why it could not be true. We, however, only refer to this circumstance in justice to Mrs. Parkes, as the fact in no way affects the question at issue, or concerns the public. Other circumstances, however, are brought forward by Mrs. Parkes, which do materially interest the public. In her first letter, she observes,—

"Will the public read without suspicion the following announcement? I quote the advertisement of the National Art-Union:—'The pair (the *Lattice* and *Mask*) after Landseer's exquisite pictures, engraved by J. H. Robinson, are partially known; but the extreme delicacy and cost of the engraving demanded a proportionate charge, which excluded them from the hands of all but a very few. The application of the electrotype has justified their introduction into this plan.' I will not ask you how or why 'the extreme delicacy' of a print should 'exclude it from the hands of all but a few'? It seems, however, that you have a number of copies still on hand; but the important question is—How is the electrotype to be so applied as to justify the introduction of these works into the plan of the National Art-Union? If you have thrown off the usual number of prints from any one of the

plates, in what state is it now?—in what state will it be when twenty electrotype copies, or twenty casts from the same original matrix, shall have been produced, and from each of these some six hundred impressions shall have been taken?"

On this subject Mrs. Parkes is now a little more communicative:—

"Mr. Moon has advertised the fact under his own name, that the *Lattice* of the National Art-Union for 1843 was published by him in 1838! under the title of the *Mantilla* (being a portrait of Mrs. Lister). I have carefully compared a print of the earlier with a proof of the later date, and what do I find? In the former, a lovely work, fresh from the hand of the artist, and in every touch I see the master; but in the latter much of the delicate handling has been worn away, leaving the stronger lines comparatively untouched, which gives the worn-out plate a raw effect (I speak as an artist), a harsh appearance that utterly destroys the tone—the great charm in a fine and highly finished engraving, and the express beauty of this particular plate. I have indeed seen an electrotype impression from a new plate, which gave to paper an absolute *fac-simile* of the original; but if this plate were electrotyped in its present state, I assert that, considering the quality of the copper used in that process, the fiftieth impression would show to those who have any knowledge of engraving a marked deterioration, even from this deteriorated plate. It is my firm opinion, founded on internal evidence, that many hundred impressions have been worked off from this plate since its change of title; a plate in use since 1838, from which the impressions sold originally at one, two, three, and four guineas each, while in its present state it is of no value as a work of art. This I vouch as one who knows what she is stating, and who states this much, because the general public cannot possess her means of comparison, nor her power (acquired by years of study and intimate acquaintance with the subject) to decide between the excellent and the indifferent. This is my deliberate opinion of the plate before it has been submitted to the electrotype; and when that process has been repeatedly applied, what must be the impression thence to be derived? Now, if I could be certain that the means of comparison between the print of 1838 and the proof of 1843 could be fairly brought before the eyes of those who could form a true judgment on the subject, I should consider my present task a piece of superfluous labour. I assert positively—1st, that this assumption in 1843 of the name of the *Lattice*, by the print which was published in 1838 as the *Mantilla*, is for the express purpose of deceiving the public, and inducing them to believe that this worn-out plate is a recent and 'partially known' engraving by one of our most eminent engravers, whereas the more delicate touches of that master-hand (whose fame would suffer from the uncontradicted imputation) are actually worn away; 2, that, pretending to be a portrait of Mrs. Lister, the equivocal expression of this altered countenance is an insult to the beautiful and amiable original, whom it belies and libels; 3, that this print of 1843 bearing open letters, the usual distinctive mark of a proof, is an imposition, highly discreditable to any party who may have incurred the responsibility of so characterizing it; and 4, that, pretending to be published in 1843, and to be dedicated by its new proprietors, under its new name, to Sir George Villiers, G.C.B., the patron of the original print, who in 1838 accepted its dedication under another name, at the hands of Mr. Moon, stamps the print with falsehood, which will shut the public ear against all the pretensions of the National Art-Union, as having in view the public advantage, the benefit of artists, and the cultivation of art. It is a great relief to me, that, feeling myself bound to let the public clearly understand these atrocious facts, I am spared from even the remotest suspicion of any personal imputation. The workers of this iniquity have not dared to face the public eye. The agents of the National are respectable men, beyond the suspicion of even an unconscious participation in such dishonourable doings; the secretaries are reputable tradesmen, apparently anxious to practise their callings in an honest way; their names are not appended to the plate. Its utterly unknown proprietors sign its dedication; but such is the extreme caution, and such the tact of these unknown proprietors, nameless directors, and nondescript managers, that there is not the shadow of a

chance of my detecting them, or I would not hesitate to proclaim their names, and call upon their respectable, but evidently deceived agents, to throw them off and denounce them to the public indignation. With regard to the authorship of this fraud, it is remarkable that in the original print of the *Mantilla*, dated Jan. 1, 1838, on the right hand corner of the plate, I read, *Engraved by John H. Robinson, member of, &c.*, whereas in the proof of the *Lattice*, dated Jan. 1, 1843 (the same plate, let my reader recollect), I find the words *Engraved for Mr. F. G. Moox, by J. H. Robinson, member of, &c.* Mr. Moon, in his advertisement of the 21st inst., shows that he has sold this with other plates to the 'proprietors' of the National Art-Union. Now I have his own word to prove that he is not one of these proprietors—he did not sell it to 'Himself and Co.:' so that these mysterious proprietors are still masking in Twelfth Night characters, or concealed in their *Mantillas* behind their *Lattices*. I dare them to come forth and tell the world their names. They are the abusers of the plate, the producers of the pretended proof before me. Mr. Moon proves that he knows the recent prints are valueless; for he advertises, and most wisely, that he has 'reserved the proofs and prints of Edwin Landseer's *Mantilla*' (the original of the *Lattice*), 'which, as early and choice impressions, will, under no circumstances, be reduced in price.' Can any words contain a stronger condemnation of these works of the National Art-Union, which falsely pretend to be 'in all respects as excellent as the originals'?"

So much for the great "National" lottery. A correspondent requests to know whether we have observed, that in the Polytechnic "Little-go" there is the same "extreme caution," unknown proprietors, nameless directors, and nondescript managers! To be sure we have. What then? So far as private interests are concerned, so far as these projects were designed "to draw custom to the shop," or put money in the purses of the projectors, we care little about them. It is because they are injurious to art, and, the "Little-go" especially, demoralizing so far as their influence can extend, that we object. Names, if respectable people could be found to lend their names as sanction to such schemes, would only extend the mischievous power of the projectors; but the "extreme caution," the "unknown," the "nameless," the "nondescript" character of the "proprietors," as Mr. Moon, in his simplicity, calls them, ought, we admit, to speak trumpet-tongued, by way of warning to the public; and it has done so, we presume, for Mrs. Parkes assures us, that "respectable parties," whose names have been advertised in conjunction with them, have already withdrawn.

THE MUSEUM OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGY.

It is not generally known that this Museum is open to the public, and extremely well worth a visit. It is not designed for an attractive show, to amuse London sight-seers, but is admirably calculated to be of service to persons interested in mining operations, in various arts and manufactures, and especially to builders and architects. By such persons it cannot be too highly appreciated, as it will often afford them an opportunity, by a short visit, of acquiring much information, and receiving many useful hints. The room into which the visitor first enters, contains various specimens of stone used for building, and also some of the products of the earthy minerals now used in the arts. The several sorts of stone examined for the purpose of deciding on the most suitable for the New Houses of Parliament, are contained in the first case, where the spectator should not fail to notice the beautiful specimen of magnesian limestone, from Bolsover, approved by the Commissioners. The wisdom of their choice appears from the fact, that the material thus selected has stood the test of 800 years in Southwell Church, where, both in the exterior and the interior, it is uninjured by the corroding tooth of time.

The small blocks of stone in the cases in this room are mostly in cubes, and many of them very beautifully polished. Among them will be found granites, porphyries, sandstones, pudding-stones, oolites, alabasters, and a great variety of English marbles, some of them rivalling in beauty the expensive marbles of Italy. The specimens from Babbicombe are especially

beautiful, as are also the blocks of shelly limestone from Pembrokehire. At the top of the room the cases contain various specimens of the products derived from earthy minerals, illustrations of the changes through which they pass, and of their application to the arts. Among these we may notice the beautiful porcelain, manufactured from the white clay derived from decomposed granite; the fire-brick and various sorts of tiles and crockery made of the Stourbridge clay; Keene's cement, which is a preparation of chalk and alum, and which, besides being a durable cement, has the whiteness and receives the polish of marble; and the plaster of Paris made of gypsum, of which there are some fine specimens; some of the numerous uses to which it is applied being illustrated by the various works of art lodged in the Museum, among which is one of the models designed for the New Houses of Parliament. The use now made of asphalt is shown by a detail of the processes through which it passes, in being applied, as it is successfully, to the formation of foot pavements.

The two rooms on the next floor are furnished with suites of specimens of the mineral contents of rocks, and of coal, both anthracite and bituminous, in all its varieties. Here the various metals may be seen in lodes, as they are brought fresh from the mines, in the amorphous and crystalline states, and all the stages through which they pass before being converted into manufactures. The different methods of manufacturing iron are illustrated, as is also the conversion of iron into steel; the various results of the hot and cold blast furnaces are shown, not only in the iron, but also in the fuel employed, and the various kinds of slag obtained from them.

By the time the visitor has reached the end of the room, he finds the material, which at first he saw in its primitive state, converted into swords, guns, and various articles of cutlery. One of the tables contains, in a morocco case, eleven small plates of steel, about a square inch in size; these plates are very interesting, being specimens of steel, exhibiting the various colours produced by tempering at different degrees of heat. These small plates show the various colours of the thermal spectrum, of which we have familiar examples in the effect produced by leaving a polished steel poker too long in the fire, and in the prismatic sort of arc often seen in the domestic stove.

The Model Room, which is reached by ascending another flight of stairs, is filled with objects of great interest to all who are engaged in geological studies or mining pursuits. Here, in half an hour, by the assistance of the models, and the instructions of the very obliging and intelligent officer to whom this department belongs, an accurate idea may be obtained of the appearance presented by the great mining county of Cornwall,—the veins in which the copper and tin are contained,—the faults by which the workman is arrested in his progress,—the way in which the mine is worked,—the "whims" by which the ore is brought to the surface, and the machinery used for purifying and smelting it. Here is a model to show the manner in which the veins and faults occur, made under the direction of Sir H. De la Beche; a model of a steam whim, erected at East Whealcroft Mine, designed by J. Sims, C.E., on a scale of an inch to a foot; a model of an apparatus by which the men may ascend to the surface, thus affording the assistance in many cases greatly needed, as appears from the fact that some of the mines are so deep, that it takes a man more than two hours to reach the top. There is a model of a Newcastle coal field, to show the mode of ventilation adopted, and by which it is seen how a stream of air is made to traverse the passages to the extent of twenty miles. The most beautiful model, if comparison be allowed, is that of Mr. Sopwith, illustrating the beds of coal in the Forest of Dean. It includes twenty-four square miles of country; it opens so as to exhibit several sections; it shows the various beds of coal; and the colouring indicates the extent to which the mines have been already worked. In this room there are specimens of the various tools used by the miner in Saxony and Cornwall, to which it is proposed to add those of other countries. In order, however, that the Museum may receive those numerous additions, which are desirable, the premises must be greatly enlarged, being already well filled; and it is to be hoped that an establishment so truly national will not be crippled for want of the space necessary to make it what it

ought to be—a friendly rival to the continental schools of mines.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

Of home gossip, scarcely a word has reached us; indeed, if we were to record here what alone has occupied our thoughts during the week, we might possibly babble of index, and other matters not particularly enlivening. These, however, belong to the past, and our talk should be of the future: but in the way of literary intelligence, the only word of promise that has reached us is from the Messrs. Longmans—'The Last Year in China, to the Peace of Nanking,' by a Field Officer, actively employed in that country.

Our neighbours, on the outside the Channel, seem equally engrossed with the cordialities and festivities of the season. The dramatic event of the last few days has been the production, under its new title of 'La Main Droite et la Main Gauche,' of M. Léon Goulan's drama—the interdict of which, by authority, almost at the very hour of performance, about a year and a half ago, under its then title of 'Il était un Roi et une Reine,' made so much noise, as our readers will remember. The offence of the piece, to which it owed at once its suppression and its notoriety, was its containing a mean and profligate attack upon the domestic habits and circumstances of our young Queen, and her newly-wedded consort; and the author, who seems to have thought himself very ill-used, by the determined interference of the higher powers, under a more generous inspiration than his own, has struggled hard to get a hearing for his dramatic squib. He has been compelled, however, to remodel it; and, so far as may be gathered from the accounts of the performance furnished by the Paris *feuilletons*, although the piece, read by the light of its author's original and known intentions, still exhibits the mischievous tendencies of its early construction and moral, yet the changes to which he has been driven have sufficiently removed it from all apt application to the royal pair, whom it sought to wound, and generalized the satire for those to whom the previous facts are unknown.

We record with regret the decease, in his seventy-fourth year, of that accomplished and urbane gentleman, Archdeacon Wrangham. The literary labours of his life were carried on, with little intermission, till its close. These were principally poetical: translations of the classics, in which an intimate knowledge of the original Latin or Greek was set forth by graceful powers of versification; or more sportive exercises, in which he rendered English verse into the modern or ancient languages with a felicity and ease scarcely inferior to that of "Father Prout," or the author of 'Il Trifoglio.' He was a man of extensive reading, and an upright and generous critic; and will be regretted by a large circle of literary friends, by whom he was beloved for the gentleness and consideration which he carried into all the relations of social intercourse.

The announcement in our last Table of Meetings, that the lecture at the Royal Academy on Thursday, would be on Sculpture, was an error; the more to be regretted, as, on that evening, was delivered the first of the series on Architecture, by Professor C. R. Cockerell. This subject just now seems to occupy so much of public attention, and our former casual notices of these lectures awakened at the time, so much interest, that we have obtained leave to attend the course, and shall furnish our readers with a report, which cannot fail to gratify them.

The Academy of Moral and Political Sciences has filled up the vacancy left by the death of Count A. de Laborde, by the election of M. Duchatel, the Minister of the Interior. The Academy of Fine Arts has elected M. Donizetti, now at Vienna, corresponding member, in the place of the late M. Mauduit; M. Kaulbach, painter, of Munich, to replace M. de Lasalle; and M. Jessi, engraver, of Florence, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of M. de Bray. The Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres has filled the places become vacant during the past year in the list of corresponding members by the election of Messrs. Eugene Borée, now in Persia; Thomas Wright, of London; Wachsmuth, of Leipsic; Cavedoni, of Modena; and De Witte, of Antwerp;

and at the close of the Anniversary Meeting of the Geographical Society, last week, there was a ballot for two members of the central committee to replace Admiral D'Urville and Dr. Edwards; when M. Thomassy obtained the first place by a large majority; and Messrs. Desjardins, Frobergville, Cor-tambert, and Couteau, being equal for the second, the oldest candidate is to be nominated.

According to Galignani an account has been laid before the Paris Academy of the second journey of MM. D'Arnaud and Sabatier to the sources of the Nile, in 1841 and 1842, by the western branch, or White Nile. "The voyage on the Nile from Kartoum was to a distance of 500 leagues. The travellers attained the 4th deg. 42 min. of latitude, almost under the meridian of Cairo, showing the error of accounts as to the direction of the White Nile. They saw no mountains, although what are called the Mountains of the Moon are traced on all the maps of the 5th to the 7th degree of latitude. The bifurcations found by these gentlemen are formed by islands only, and there are immense marshes. The inhabitants are reported to be very numerous, of a pacific character, varying in race, language, and physiognomy. Some are of a bronze colour, with soft hair. In one of the tribes the men are armed with lances of more than 12 feet in length, the iron heads forming nearly a fourth of this measure. In another tribe the moon is their deity; if engaged in combat, they leave off the moment that the moon rises. Messrs. D'Arnaud and Sabatier, when in the dominions of the King of the Behrs, found there various articles of the merchandise of India. This chief, they say, has his palace on the water, and it can only be approached by swimming. His guards are two battalions of women, armed with spears and bucklers. His ministers never enter the interior of the palace of their king, except at the moment when they have reason to suppose that he is attacked with mortal illness, and it is then their duty to strangle him, to prevent a natural death."—We presume that the expression "Voyage on the Nile," is ascribable to the haste of the translator, and that we are merely to understand by it the journey up the Nile. The Western Nile or White River ceases to be navigable a little above Al Ais in the same parallel with Senhar. The general character of this river,—divided into many channels through level marshes or over gravelly plains, was made known to us by the Turkish expedition of 1825, which explored the country to the extent of 15 days' journey above Al Ais: with respect to the water which is said to surround the dwelling of the King of the Behrs, it may be observed that the Galla in Abyssinia have some knowledge of a great sea or lake in the interior, which they say is so wide, that it takes a vulture three hours to fly over it. Of the Mountains of the Moon which seem to have ascended, we have much to say, but we shall reserve our observations on that and the other topics elucidated by MM. D'Arnaud and Sabatier, till a more ample account of the discoveries of those gentlemen shall be before us.

We are happy to hear, on the authority M. de Humboldt, that the preparatory labours for cutting a canal across the isthmus of Panama are advancing rapidly. The commission appointed by the government of New Grenada for the construction of a canal to unite the two oceans, has terminated its examination of the localities, and has arrived at a result as fortunate as it was unexpected. The chain of the Cordilleras does not extend, as was supposed, across the isthmus; on the contrary, a valley very favourable to the operation has been discovered. The natural position of the waters is also favourable. Three rivers, over which an easy control may be established, and which may be made partially navigable, will be connected with the canal. The excavations necessary will not extend to more than 124 miles in length. The fall may be regulated by four double locks, 138 feet in length; and the total length of the canal will be 49 miles, with a width of 135 feet at the surface, and 55 feet at the base; the depth will be 20 feet. The canal thus executed will be navigable by vessels of from 1000 to 1400 tons. According to the estimate of M. Morel, a French engineer, the total cost of this canal would be only 14 millions of francs, including the purchase of two steamers.

CAUBUL.—NOW OPEN at the ROYAL PANORAMA, Leicester-square, a comprehensive and interesting VIEW OF CAUBUL, including the Bala Hisar, the river Caubul, with a distant View of the Himalaya Mountains and the Pass of Khurd Caubul, where the British army was so treacherously destroyed. The whole illustrated by numerous groups of figures descriptive of the manners and costumes of the Afghans. The Views of the Battle of Waterloo, and of Jerusalem, will shortly be closed.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 16.—Mr. Murchison, President, in the chair. Three papers were read.

1. 'On the Structure of the Delta of the Ganges, exhibited by the Boring Operations in Fort William. A.D. 1836—40,' by Lieut. R. Baird Smith, B.E.—Since the year 1804, a number of boring operations have been conducted in the Gangetic Delta, with a view to supply the deficiency of good fresh water in the vicinity of Calcutta, but, from mechanical obstacles, without success. The geological results of the last of these experiments, commenced in April, 1836, and abandoned in 1840, after being carried on to the depth of 480 feet, are detailed by Lieut. Smith in this memoir. After penetrating to the depth of ten feet through the artificial surface soil, a bed of blue clay, close and adhesive in its texture, was entered. As the bore descended, the clay became darker in colour, till, in from 30 to 50 feet, large portions of peat, with decaying fragments of trees, were found. Succeeding these peat-charged beds, a stratum of calcareous clay, 10 feet in thickness, is found, and intermixed with it are portions of the concretionary limestone, commonly known in India as kankur. Underlying the bed of calcareous clay in which the kankur first occurs, there is a thin bed of green siliceous clay, extending from 60 to 65 feet in depth. The clay then loses its colour, and continues to a depth of 75 feet, the lower portion of it furnishing nodules of kankur. At 75 feet, a bed of variegated sandy, or arenaceous clay commences, and continues to the depth of 120 feet, occasionally traversed by horizontal beds of kankur. Beneath this is a stratum of argillaceous marl, 5 feet in thickness; and succeeding it there is a bed only 3 feet in thickness, of loose friable sandstone, the particles of sand being held loosely together by a clayey cement. Argillaceous marl, 20 feet in thickness, follows the sandstone, terminating at the depth of 150 feet, when it passes into an arenaceous clay, intermixed with water-worn nodules of hydrated oxide of iron. Weathered mica slate is found attached to the clay of this bed, and throughout the entire range of strata penetrated, scales of mica have always been abundantly met with. At 175 feet, a coarse friable quartzose conglomerate occurs, composed of pebbles of different sizes, though none are very large, cemented together by clay. At 177 feet, this conglomerate becomes smaller grained; and at 183 feet 3 inches, it is found to pass into indurated ferruginous clay, which continues, with but little variation, to a depth of 208 feet. Here another layer of sandstone, soft in its upper portion, but becoming more indurated, and assuming the lamellar structure as if it passed through, occurs; the thickness being, however, no more than 3 feet. Ferruginous sand, with thin beds of calcareous and arenaceous clay, prevail from 208 feet to 380. Kankur, with minute water-worn fragments of quartz, felspar, granite, and other indications of *débris* from primary rocks, are met with in the lower parts of this sandy deposit, in which were also found three fragments of bones, of which one was considered by Mr. J. Prinsep to be the lower half of a humerus of some small quadruped, like a dog, and another the fragment of the carapace of a turtle. At 380 feet, there occurred a thin layer, only 2 feet in thickness, of blue calcareous clay, thickly studded with fragments of shells; and at 382 feet, this was succeeded by a layer of dark clay, composed almost entirely of decayed wood. From the lower portion of it several fragments of coal, of excellent quality, were brought up. Underneath this stratum, and in the gravelly bed which immediately succeeds it, there were found several other fragments of fossil bones. One was considered to be a caudal vertebra of a kind of lizard, and the rest were fragments of turtles. These were discovered at the depth of 423 feet, and were associated with large rolled pebbles of quartz, both white and amethystine, felspar, limestone, and indurated clay. The gravel, composed entirely of the *débris* of primary rocks, continued to

the depth of 481 feet, where the operations ceased. Lieut. Smith remarks the correspondence of the succession of the strata in the Gangetic Delta, at a depth of from 350 to 480 feet, with that observed by Captain Cautley, at the base of the Himalaya. On geological grounds, he concludes, that had no interruption arrested the experiment, the object in view would not have been gained.

2. 'On Pipes, or Sandgalls, in Chalk,' by Mr. Joshua Trimmer, F.G.S.—The author maintains that the pipes in the chalk of the part of Kent examined, were formed by the action of the sea, on a low shore, and that they mark the boundaries of the auto-cene sea, and were subsequently submerged and covered by the London clay. Mr. Trimmer considers the form and contents of the pipes to indicate the mechanical action of water; and having had the opportunity of observing the removal of the covering from the chalk near Faversham, remarked that they were but the termination of furrows from 6 to 24 inches deep in the shallowest parts exposed, but widening and deepening as they approached the pipes, till they were lost in them. His opinion was strengthened by observing certain blocks of siliceous sandstone marked with similar furrows and pipes, though of smaller dimensions, which could not have been formed by the action of acidulated water. On the sea shore, near Reculver, he saw similar blocks, presenting pipes in miniature. The waves charged with small pebbles and sand, wearing the surface with furrows, like those of the chalk, the softer parts of the stone then giving way, first hollows are formed, when the rotary motion of the contents of the hollows, set in action by the influx and reflux of the waves, drills the pipe. Arguing from analogy, he holds that similar causes produced the pipes in chalk.

3. 'On some remarkable Concretions in the Tertiary Beds of the Isle of Man,' by Mr. H. E. Strickland, F.G.S.—The northern extremity of the Isle of Man consists of an arenaceous deposit, forming a district of about 50 square miles, the most extensive example of the marine newer pleistocene in the British Isles. In places, it attains a height of about 200 feet above the level of the sea. Organic remains are rather sparingly diffused in it, and Mr. Strickland enumerates 20 species, of which 5 are not existing inhabitants of the British Seas. Near Ramsay, the beds of this deposit occasionally exhibit a very remarkable concretionary structure. The sand has here been cemented into masses, which are extremely hard, and even sonorous when struck, though the sand in which they are imbedded is perfectly loose. The cementing ingredient, which the application of acid proves to be carbonate of lime, seems to have been influenced in its operations partly by the planes of stratification, and partly by the direction in which the sand has been originally drifted by currents. In the former case, the concretions are in the form of flat tabular masses, parallel to the stratification often mammillated on their surfaces, or perforated obliquely by tubular cavities. In the latter case, they assume a sub-cylindrical, or spear-shaped form, and occur parallel both to the stratification and to each other. A pebble is frequently attached to the larger end of the concretion, which springs from it as from a root, to the length of a foot or more, and gradually terminates in an obtuse flattened point. All these varieties are sometimes combined together into vast clusters of several tons weight, resembling masses of stalactite, the component portions being nearly parallel to each other. Mr. Strickland supposes that currents of water (or possibly of wind, operating during ebb tide), flowing in a certain direction, may have disposed the sand in ridges parallel to that direction, and the carbonate of lime may have afterwards been attracted into these ridges in preference to the intermediate portions. This view is confirmed by the fact, that these concretions have frequently a pebble attached to the larger end, as though it had protected a portion of sand from the current, and caused it to accumulate in a ridge on the lee side, a circumstance which may frequently be observed where sand is drifted by the wind or water.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

Nov.—Dec.—The President, Lord Wrottesley, in the chair.

Lieut. H. C. Otter, R.N., W. F. Donkin, Esq., and John Lane, Esq., were elected Fellows.

Papers of great interest were read by Mr. F. Baily and the Astronomer Royal, 'On the Total Solar Eclipse of July, as observed at Padua and Turin.' We had the gratification to publish (No. 769) in an extract from a letter, written by Mr. Baily, the first account, by an eye-witness, of this eclipse; and, subsequently, further interesting accounts in a letter from Vienna, and the Report of MM. Pinnaud and Boissier (No. 772). But so few authentic particulars exist of these rare phenomena, that we are sure it will gratify our readers, if we publish a full Report of the observations of these distinguished Astronomers.—'Some Remarks on the Total Eclipse of the Sun, on July 8th, 1842.' By Francis Baily, Esq., Vice-President of this Society.

It is well known to many members of this Society that I proposed to proceed to the Continent, during the last summer, for the express purpose of observing the total eclipse of the Sun which was to take place on the morning of July 8th, civil reckoning. This object has been accomplished; and I flatter myself that an account of that rare phenomenon, by an eye-witness, may be acceptable to this meeting. A statement of the principal observations that I made, was communicated by me, to one of the Vice-Presidents of this Society, in a letter written at Milan within 48 hours after the eclipse, whilst the circumstances were still fresh in my memory; and they do not differ from those that I am now about to relate more in detail, and which I am desirous here to place on record.

A total eclipse of the sun, in any particular portion of the globe, is an event of very rare occurrence, since only four or five of these remarkable phenomena are recorded as having been seen in Europe during the last century: to which we may add another that was fortunately seen at sea, by Don Ullon. But, the accounts of these several eclipses are by no means satisfactory, since they are discordant in many particulars; which probably has arisen not only from the sudden and unexpected appearances that occurred, but also from the loose description that has been given of them, either by the observers themselves, or by those who drew up the accounts, and perhaps did not fully comprehend the intention and meaning of the authors. The difficulty also is very much increased from the want of drawings to represent the exact appearances seen; which are always more readily understood by this method, than by any verbal description. During the present century another eclipse of this kind has taken place in the United States of America, which was observed by Mr. Ferrer; and a minute account of the same, together with a drawing of its appearance, has been published in the sixth volume of the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society. These are the only cases of interest that are on record since the invention of the telescope, within which period we must necessarily limit our attempt to acquire any useful information relative to this remarkable phenomenon. But, I must proceed with my narrative.

My original intention was to have taken up my station, for observing the eclipse, at Digne, in the south of France; and I had proceeded on my way thither till I arrived near Lyons, when I found that I had a few days to spare; and, as I had proposed to visit Venice before my return home, I altered my route, and resolved to proceed in an easterly direction, along the line of the moon's shadow, till the day before the eclipse, when I proposed to halt at the most convenient place that might offer. I therefore turned off towards Chambery, and crossing the Alps at Mount Cenis, passed through Turin, Asti, and Alessandria, and arrived at Pavia about noon on July 7th. As this place was directly on the central line of the moon's shadow, I resolved at once to make it my head quarters. I had intended to apply to the director of the university there, for the use of a convenient place where I might observe the eclipse: but I was agreeably anticipated in this respect, by a visit from one of the Professors, who having heard of my arrival and my object, immediately and obligingly came to offer me the use of any one of the apartments in the university that might be considered most adapted for my purpose. On accompanying him to the university, with this object, I selected one of the upper rooms of the building, which was admirably adapted for making the observations that I had in view. He then very kindly expressed his readiness

to furnish me with any instruments at the university, that I might require for my use. But, I had taken with me from London the same 34-feet telescope by Dollond, that I had formerly used in the annular eclipse of May 15, 1836, as already described in the tenth volume of the *Memoirs* of this Society: and I therefore informed him that all I wanted was to be left alone during the whole time of the eclipse, being fully persuaded that nothing is so injurious to the making of accurate observations, as the intrusion of unnecessary company. Acting upon this hint, he immediately took the key from the outside of the door, and placed it in the inside, and told me that I might lock myself in: but there was no occasion for this precaution, for although I heard numerous footsteps pass the door, in their way to an adjoining apartment, which was also used as an observatory on this occasion, no one attempted to enter the room in which I was located. At four o'clock in the morning of the eventful day I went to the university, in order to prepare for the observation: and at that early hour I found many of the students and official persons walking about. At sunrise a thin stratum of clouds was seen in the east near the horizon, but the sun soon got above this obstruction, and the remainder of the day was beautifully clear and serene: not a cloud was to be seen in any part of the heavens, visible from my window, during the whole time of the eclipse. It was as fine a day as that which I had fortunately witnessed in Scotland, at the annular eclipse of 1836. I had a very good observation of the commencement, and the end of the eclipse; but I did not pay any great attention to these secondary objects, and, as my chronometer was not adjusted to correct mean time, these observations can be of no use, except as indicating the duration of the eclipse, which, according to my reckoning, was $1^h 56^m 39.6^s$ mean time. As the moon advanced towards her central conjunction with the sun, I watched very carefully, and with much anxiety, the approach of the border of the moon towards the still illuminated portion of the sun, which was now rapidly assuming a fine crescent shape, the precursor of total obscuration. I used a red coloured glass, in order to observe the phenomenon, notwithstanding the remarks and advice to the contrary by an American observer: and the power of the eye glass was about 40. When the total obscuration took place, the coloured glass was removed. I at first looked out very narrowly for the black lines which were seen in the annular eclipse of 1836; as they would probably precede the string of beads. These lines however did not make their appearance; or, at least, they were not seen by me. But, the beads were distinctly visible; and on their first appearance I had noted down, on paper, the time of my chronometer, and was in the act of counting the seconds in order to ascertain the time of their duration, when I was astounded by a tremendous burst of applause from the streets below, and at the same moment was electrified at the sight of one of the most brilliant and splendid phenomena that can well be imagined. For, at that instant, the dark body of the moon was suddenly surrounded with a corona, or kind of bright glory, similar in shape and relative magnitude to that which painters draw round the heads of saints, and which by the French is designated an *aurole*.

Pavia contains many thousand inhabitants, the major part of whom were at this early hour, walking about the streets and squares, or looking out of windows, in order to witness this long talked-of phenomenon: and when the total obscuration took place, which was instantaneous, there was an universal shout from every observer, which "made the welkin ring;" and, for the moment, withdrew my attention from the object with which I was immediately occupied. I had indeed anticipated the appearance of a luminous circle round the moon during the time of total obscuration; but I did not expect, from any of the accounts of preceding eclipses that I had read, to witness so magnificent an exhibition as that which took place. I had imagined (erroneously as it is seems) that the corona, as to its brilliant or luminous appearance, would not be greater than that faint crepuscular light which sometimes takes place on a summer's evening, and that it would encircle the moon like a ring. I was therefore somewhat surprised and astonished at the splendid scene which now so suddenly burst upon my view. It rivetted my attention so effectually

that I quite lost sight of the string of beads, which however were not completely closed when this phenomenon first appeared. I apprehend that only a few seconds of time (perhaps 3 or 4) were wanting to complete the perfect obscuration of the sun: but I cannot speak on this point with much certainty. I had previously noted down some of the principal objects to which I was desirous of directing my attention during the time of total obscuration, and which seem to have given rise to much discussion on former occasions. These, as far as the corona is concerned, had reference principally to its colour, its lustre or paleness, its magnitude and extent, its state of motion or repose, and its encircling the sun or the moon as its centre: then, as to the moon, whether any holes were discernible, or any coruscations of light on the dark side: next, as to the amount of darkness in the atmosphere, the change of colour in surrounding objects, and some other points not requisite here to enumerate further. The time however for making accurate observations of this kind is always so short in total eclipses (in the present case being less than 2½ minutes) that one individual can scarcely attend to all the objects that are requisite to be noticed; more especially if his attention is called away (as in this instance) by any new phenomenon which had not been previously observed, or even anticipated. It is therefore desirable, in any future occurrences of this nature, that a division of labour should be made between 2 or 3 observers at the same place: each attending solely to the part which he has selected for his particular object.

The breadth of the corona, measured from the circumference of the moon, appeared to me to be nearly equal to half the moon's diameter. It had the appearance of brilliant rays. The light was most dense (indeed, I may say quite dense) close to the border of the moon, and became gradually and uniformly more attenuate as its distance therefrom increased, assuming the form of diverging rays, in a rectilinear line, and at the extremity were more divided and of unequal length: so that in no part of the corona could I discover the regular and well defined shape of a ring at its outer margin. It appeared to me to have the sun for its centre, but I had no means of taking any accurate measures for determining this point. Its colour was quite white, not pearl colour, nor yellow, nor red; and the rays had a vivid and flickering appearance, somewhat like that which a gas-light illumination might be supposed to assume, if formed into a similar shape. I should think it not impossible to give a tolerable representation of this phenomenon by some artificial contrivance. I have seen something like it, in miniature, by the reflection of the sun's light from a piece of broken glass: and on a larger scale by viewing the sun through a grove of trees: but in both these cases it is necessary to obscure the central portion of the rays. The brilliancy of the corona was however quite as great as that which is produced by either of the methods here alluded to. I have annexed hereto a drawing of the corona, representing as nearly as I can preserve in my recollection, the appearance of its shape and extent, and the ramification of the rays, at the time of the middle of the total obscuration. I had no time or opportunity for ascertaining the deviation of the moon from the central position of the corona, at any other point of its progress.

Splendid and astonishing however as this remarkable phenomenon really was, and although it could not fail to call forth the admiration and applause of every beholder, yet I must confess that there was at the same time something in its singular and wonderful appearance that was appalling: and I can readily imagine that uncivilized nations may occasionally have become alarmed and terrified at such an object, more especially in times when the true cause of the occurrence may have been but faintly understood, and the phenomenon itself wholly unexpected. But the most remarkable circumstance attending this phenomenon (at least, that which most engaged my observation during the short interval of total obscuration, and drew my attention from other objects of interest) was the appearance of three large protuberances apparently emanating from the circumference of the moon, but evidently forming a portion of the corona. They had the appearance of mountains, of a prodigious elevation: their colour was red, tinged with lilac or purple; perhaps the colour of the peach

blossom would more nearly represent it. They somewhat resembled the snowy tops of the Alpine mountains, when coloured by the rising or setting sun. They resembled the Alpine mountains also in another respect, inasmuch as their light was perfectly steady, and had none of that flickering or sparkling motion so visible in other parts of the corona. All the three projections were of the same roseate cast of colour, and very distinct from the brilliant vivid white light that formed the corona: but they differed from each other in magnitude. [Mr. Baily exhibited a drawing on which was represented the appearance of the shape, size, and position of these several protuberances.] The whole of these three protuberances were visible even to the last moment of total obscuration, at least, I never lost sight of them, when looking in that direction; and, when the first ray of light was admitted from the sun, they vanished with the corona, altogether, and day-light was instantaneously restored. My attention was so constantly taken up by these remarkable and unexpected appearances, that I omitted to watch for the re-appearance of the beads, and therefore cannot add my testimony to the re-occurrence of that phenomenon.

The darkness, during the time of total obscuration, was not so great as I had anticipated. I had caused a lighted candle to be prepared, in order to be ready in case of need; but I eventually extinguished it: as I found I could read very small print, and note the time by my chronometer, without its assistance. Prior to the commencement of the eclipse I had observed a great number of swallows flying about; but towards the middle of the eclipse they had all vanished, and did not make their appearance again till a few minutes after the first ray of light emanated from the sun, when they were as active, and soon became as numerous, as ever. During the time of total obscuration, I examined carefully with the telescope the body of the moon, but could not discern any bright spot that might be mistaken for a hole; nor could I discover any coruscations issuing from the dark side of the moon. These, however, were only momentary observations. I was told that several stars were seen, but I could not spare the time to look about for them myself: every moment was occupied with more important matter. Having thus given a detail of all the principal circumstances that occurred, and precisely in the manner in which they presented themselves to my view, as far as my recollection (committed to paper, immediately after the event) will assist me, I had intended to have subjoined to this communication an account of the several phenomena that had been noted on former occasions of this kind, and to have compared the various descriptions with each other, in order to see how far any differences that were observed, might be reconciled with present appearances. Or, in other words, to have presented a sort of historical view of the subject, somewhat similar to the plan which I adopted in my memoir relative to the annular eclipse in 1836. But, I fear that I may already have encroached too much on the time of the meeting: and I am moreover of opinion that a review of this kind can be taken with greater advantage at a more advanced period of time, when we may be in possession also of the several observations that have been made on the present eclipse, at different places on the Continent, and which might thus be introduced into the comparison. Should such a measure be thought desirable and useful to future observers, I may probably intrude again upon the time and attention of the Society.

(We shall give the Report of the Astronomer Royal next week.)

MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.—Dec. 21.—Professor Lindley, President, in the chair.—A paper was read from the Rev. J. B. Reade, entitled 'Microscopic Chemistry, No. 1. On the existence of Ammonia in Gum, Sugar, and other non-azotized Bodies.' The author, after alluding to the great degree of importance which chemistry might derive from the use of the microscope, goes on to state, that a quantity of nitrogen, not exceeding the 100th part of a grain, if existing as a constituent of ammonia, may be detected with certainty, by means of the microscope. The method of detecting the ammonia in sugar, was as follows—by burning the sugar in the spirit lamp until flame and aqueous vapour have ceased, and

receiving the gas during subsequent combustion upon a slip of glass, moistened with hydrochloric acid. In conclusion, the author stated, that he had detected ammonia in beer, gum, and suet, which had all been classified by Liebig as non-nitrogenized bodies. He thought that the reason why chemists had failed in detecting nitrogen in sugar, was because the quantity was much too small to be recognized by the usual process of ultimate analysis.—A second paper was by Mr. H. H. White, on a new species of Xanthidium, found in flint.—Mr. Hussul resumed his 'Observations on the production of Decay in Fruit, by means of Fungi.' The author, after stating, that in order to set aside any doubt which might exist of the power of fungi in producing decay in fruit, he had inoculated sound fruit whilst on the tree, and found that the decay was as rapid as in those specimens which had been previously removed from the tree. He contended that the mere bruising of fruit was not sufficient of itself to cause decay, but that the presence either of fungi or of the spores of fungi, was necessary before the decay could take place.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- MON.** Geographical Society, 4 p. 8. P. M.
 — Institute of British Architects, 8.—On a new mode of constructing Flues and Chimneys, by J. Moon.—A Description of the Sir Harry Burrard Neale Testimonial, communicated by G. Draper.—A Description of a Preparation to render Stone, Brick, and other absorbent materials Impervious to Water, by J. Sylvester.—Mr. R. W. Billings will offer some illustrations of a mode of striking Gothic Tracery.
TUES. Meteorological Society, 8.
 — Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.
 — Geological Society, 4 p. 8.
WED. Literary Fund, 3.
 — Society of Arts, 8.
 — Medico-Botanical Society, 8.
THURS. Royal Society, 4 p. 8.
 — Royal Society of Literature, 8.
 — Royal Academy, 8.—Architecture.
 — Society of Antiquaries, 8.
FRI. Astronomical Society, 8.

FINE ARTS

Queen Victoria in Scotland, 1842.—We have here, by way of New Year's gift, a reminiscence of a Royal Progress; and a portly volume it is, liberally "pedigreed out" with lithographs executed by Messrs. Maclure & Macdonald, from drawings by Mr. Maclure, containing a full record of the presentations, pastimes, and processions of each day, with as small a proportion as could reasonably be expected of those effusions of loyalty, which have of late excited no little nausea in publications of a like character. But as, while turning over the pages, we have not been arrested by any passage of special brilliancy, we shall, for the present at least, confine ourselves to a specification of the illustrations. We are constrained to say, that the medallion profiles of Her Majesty and Prince Albert, executed by the anaptyograph, which decorate the frontpiece, fail in their effect. There is an exaggeration in the parted lips of our Sovereign, which amounts to caricature. The lithographs are better, and include the Hall at Taymouth during the Ball—Mons Meg at Edinburgh Castle—The High Street of "Scott's own romantic town"—views of Dalkeith Palace, Dalmeny and Drummond Castles; and of Taymouth, with the torch-lit dance of the kilted men, some of whom are gone to edify with their steps and screams the public of the Parisian Carnival: "prospects" of Perth, Stirling, and Dunkeld, as they appeared during the memorable time, are also here, to delight the loyal, and, we should think, to ensure an extensive sale to the work they adorn. This day twelvemonth, such of us as are left to play the part of Master Lancham, and gossip of the royal "whereabouts," may have to examine companion pictures of Her Majesty in Dublin Castle, on the splendid new terrace at Powerscourt, &c. So let it be; these royal journeys can hardly pass, without yielding good to the people, as well as pleasure to their ruler: but, for this week at least, we must forbear any further speculations on so tempting a subject.

Shaw's Dresses and Decorations. Part 22 is one of the richest of the series. Among other interesting subjects, it contains a reduced fac-simile of a three-quarters length portrait of Queen Elizabeth, ascribed to Holbein, with which the visitors at Hampton Court must be familiar. It appears to have escaped Mr. Shaw's attention, that Horace Walpole threw several doubts on this picture, which a MS. in the British Museum furnishes the means of

removing. "Over one of the doors" (at Kensington Palace) says Walpole, "is a picture ascribed to Holbein, and supposed to be Queen Elizabeth when princess, with a book in her hand, but I question both the painter and the person represented." (Dallaway's edition of 'Walpole's Anecdotes,' vol. I. p. 148.) But Dallaway does not seem to participate in Walpole's doubts, for in a note, in the same vol. (p. 140), he describes the same picture among Holbein's works as "The Princess, afterwards Queen Elizabeth, when young in red, holding a book, formerly at Whitehall, now at Kensington." A manuscript in the Harleian Collection (No. 1419), being an inventory of the effects of Henry VIII. deposited in his various palaces, Whitehall, St. James's, Greenwich, Oatlands, and Hampton Court, &c., which was compiled immediately after his death, removes, we think, Walpole's doubts, at least, as respects the identification of the picture as a portrait of Queen Elizabeth. The following is the contemporary notice of it from the inventory. "A table (i. e. panel) with the picture of the Lady Elizabeth her grace, with a booke in her hande, her gowne like crymeson clothe of golde with workes." This account perfectly agrees with the painting engraved by Mr. Shaw, and since the fact is established that it is a genuine portrait of the Queen, there would be no impossibility in Holbein's being the painter of it, putting aside internal evidence of the fact, which seems to us to tend altogether in that direction. At all events, when we reckon up the limners of that day, painters at the court of Henry VIII.—Jerome de Trevisi, Luca Penn, Corneliz—we shall not find one whose works entitled him to the credit of the authorship of this picture so strongly as Holbein.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE.

On Monday will be performed Shakespeare's Tragedy of MACBETH.
 Macbeth, Mr. Macready.
 Tuesday, OTHELLO.
 Wednesday, KING JOHN.
 Thursday, the New Tragedy of the PATRICIAN'S DAUGHTER.
 Friday, Dryden and Purcell's Opera of KING ARTHUR.
 Saturday, an Opera. Every Evening the Pantomime.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Mendelssohn's Third Symphony, arranged as a Piano-forte Duett, by the Author, Op. 56.—There are as many modes of musical arrangement as of literary translation. In the days when orchestral science was in its infancy, and the ten fingers of performers on keyed instruments could, without any extraordinary stretch or fatigue, have represented the stringed quartet, as it was then employed alternately with a pair of oboes, flutes, or trumpets, nothing could be more meagre than the compressed score for the harpsichord or pianoforte. Little was attempted beyond a bald and literal version of the leading points of the composition, and a sketchy indication of the chords to be filled up by the thorough-bass player. In proportion as harmonies have become chromatic, and scores diversified, wonders have been expected from the pianist. Any one that examines Czerny's or Kalkbrenner's versions, for four hands, of Beethoven's symphonies, will find every bar of the stave crowded with notes to an excess defying the most practised player; who, indeed, may execute the notes, but cannot possibly give to each finger the power of representing the trombone, or bassoon, or clarinet, for which it is appointed deputy; the consequences being a heaviness of effect, satiating rather than satisfying to the ear.

So far we have been speaking of versions, in which the composition is literally set down, and the instrument left to adapt itself as best it may. Another manner of working, however, has been introduced by Liszt and others. They no longer profess to arrange—the word is transcribe. With an enlarged knowledge of the uses and the powers of the piano, they attempt to provide for these as well as for the main features of the orchestral compositions, by paraphrasing such passages as are opposed to the genius of their instrument; considering general picturesqueness of effect as of more consequence than that close and formal adherence to their originals deemed necessary by their predecessors. Our distinction will be understood by all who are familiar with M. Liszt's transcripts of the overture to 'Guillaume Tell,' or the 'Sinfonia Pastorale.' But

while hearing these played by their transcriber, as much disappointment was felt as wonder. Even Liszt cannot metamorphose the tinkle of the pianoforte into the pompous searching tone of the brass band; even his, the most elastic of wrists, cannot represent the exquisite brilliancy of the four bow-hands of stringed quartet. In proportion as effects are imitated, the ear is tantalized, and we have never listened to one of these gigantic exhibitions of power and memory without being impatient till such good gifts were put to their legitimate employment in some work, equally solid, where the pianoforte should be employed to deliver ideas within the scope of its language, and not compelled to toil after that vast and many-voiced machine, the orchestra.

We have bestowed a few words on this subject, because we do not remember that it has been treated by any contemporaries, while we are constantly arrested by mistakes in publication, arising from the too limited knowledge of the elder, or the too extravagant ambitions of the younger school. Hence it gives us particular pleasure to advert to the Symphony under notice, as a fair and effective specimen of arrangement, the subject being unusually difficult. The pianist must not look in it for the attraction of such charming passages as are to be found in the four-handed sonatas of Hummel, Moscheles, and Onslow. On the other hand, in making acquaintance with one of the most important new works of modern times, he may be secure of not being needlessly tortured.

How much, however, the best modern orchestral composition must lose, when cribbed and cabined within the key-board of a piano, this Symphony is a proof more than usually emphatic to those who heard it at the Philharmonic Concerts last year. The opening *andante*, with its richly worked *crescendo*, as here arranged, will give the stranger but little idea of one of the most satisfactory admixtures of sound in the musician's memory. So, too, the second part of the *allegro*, than which Meyerbeer himself never scored anything in a more romantic fashion—whether we regard the sustained minims (p. 11) or the *pizzicato* (p. 15), or the stormy *tremolando* (pp. 21, 22)—cannot possibly be conceived in its full beauty, by the student who has no recollections to aid him. Yet more is this the case with the *scherzo*, in which the entry of one instrument after another gives such a piquancy to the quaint and entrancing gaiety of the melody. Why, let us ask, should not the imagination be assisted, by a specification in a pianoforte version of the varieties of "pipe and wire," originally employed? Such an aid, it is true, will do nothing for the mere mechanical player—but he, again, will soon throw by the work, as beyond his comprehension.

But if, to analyze this Symphony as a composition, we ought to have the full score before us, a remark or two on some characteristic points of detail cannot but be welcome. The composer's unchanging adherence to minor keys in the first and last movements affords a fair example of what may be done for variety and relief even in monochromatic musical painting. We must, also, again point to a certain northern wildness of colour pervading the whole composition—for if the first *allegro* did suggest this, (as to our fancy it does,) the second movement is so obviously a *strathspey*, as to transport the dullest listener among the kilts and the heather. This *scherzo*, indeed, is an admirable example of the manner in which a composer may avail himself of the characteristics of irregular national music, whose only character some have deemed to lie in its irregularity. In particular the last phrases on the 33rd, and the first on the 35th page, could only have been written by one thoroughly imbued with the Scottish spirit; and yet the movement comes to as discreet and orderly a close, as if the above passage were not one of those quaint and vivacious *flings* from which many a musician would have abstained as barbarous, and which no hand short of a master's could have trained into form.

In passing from the *scherzo* to the *adagio*, we must question the discretion of Dr. Mendelssohn's favourite habit of linking the movements of a grand composition together by intermediate phrases—feeling that a moment's entire silence and pause of interest are grateful to the ear, when the work is so long drawn. The *adagio*, itself, though, in its present form, it be, perhaps, the most agreeable movement to play, will

be generally found intrinsically the least interesting part of the composition.—In the final *allegro*, we can only recommend the magnificent example of *crescendo* it contains (pp. 61, 63), having already strayed beyond bounds in making the above scattered observations. We shall be glad, if they call the attention of any student to the very interesting duet before us, since it must, for the thinker, exceed in interest most of the productions, whether single or double-handed, which the year 1843 will bring before him.

THE new management of COVENT GARDEN is active in ministering to the growing fondness for music on the part of the play-going community: 'Semiramide' has been again performed, Miss Rainforth taking the place of Miss Kemble as the Assyrian Queen, and rising with the occasion to a higher degree of energy and feeling as an actress than she had ever previously attained: to compare her performance with that of Miss Kemble would be unjust towards Miss Rainforth's very meritorious attempt to sustain the grandeur of a character for which she has not the physical requisites. It is a pleasanter duty to record the success of her vocal efforts, and the applause that greeted them and the whole performance. 'Gustavus' was revived, as the phrase runs, last night, the splendour of the ball scene being doubtless relied on as an attraction for the holiday visitors, who may not be aware of the claims that the music has to admiration. The next opera, in which Mrs. Alfred Shaw will appear, is 'La Donna del Lago': a work by Benedict is also in rehearsal, in which she will bear a principal part.—A farce, called 'The Highwayman,' has been produced, to the delight of the audience, who relished its pantomimic absurdities and metamorphoses, though the humour of the jest escaped our observation.

To-night is fixed for the London debut of Miss Sabilla Novello, at DRURY LANE, as *Ninetta*, in 'La Gazza Ladra'; another young lady making her first appearance on the stage in the part of *Pippa*.

THE HAYMARKET closes on Saturday next, until Easter.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—This new theatre is better adapted for comic opera than any house in London; nor can there be two opinions concerning its splendour and comfort. We do not, however, entirely agree with our contemporaries as to its inaugural musical performances. 'La Sonnambula,' it is true, has been carefully prepared and put on the stage; but the version is that vulgar translation, defaced with buffoonery, which we had hoped would be superseded by the edition recently presented at Covent Garden. Then Signor Schira, the conductor, though proved to be a clever man, by the order in which he keeps the band, chorus, and principal singers, stands in need of some quickening spirit at his elbow. Our excellent *maestri*, Signor Costa and M. Benedict, may be both sometimes too mercurial in their anxiety after brilliancy; but the truth lies between their excess of vivacity and their sluggishness, which, like the slow utterance of stupid people, is peculiarly trying in music essentially so feeble and languid as Bellini's. To speak now of the *corps*: we made acquaintance with the *prima donna*, Madame Eugénie Garcia, some three years ago in Paris, when she was performing at the *Opéra Comique*, in a French version of Coppola's miserable 'Nina.' Since then her powers and accomplishments have undergone little change. She comes third on the list of pupils trained on the Garcia method: which is to extend the compass of the voice—securing the upper and lower at the expense of the middle tones—and to force audacities of execution in despite of natural incapacity and reluctance. Being less genially gifted than either Madame Malibran or Madame Viardot, there is more effort and far less finish in Madame Garcia's performance, with the same want of repose. How great was the consequent fatigue to the ear may be judged from the fact, that we actually rested with satisfaction upon the few phrases sung in the more *poet* manner of the good old Italian school by Madame Féron. As an actress, too, Madame Garcia is busy, rather than spirited;—harsh and angular where she wishes to be impassioned. Mr. Templeton's *Elvino* ("his original character," as the bills announce, by which the unlearned are led to understand that he bespoke the part from Bellini) is just what it ever was;

a mixture of the shout of Braham and the *falsetto* of Rubini, with a nasal twang entirely unborrowed: nor is his acting changed. The *Count Rodolpho* of Mr. Weiss affords another proof of the short-sightedness of English ambition. The new baritone is very young; possesses a superb and musical voice, and not a bad stage face; but to his performance were wanting dancing master, fencing master, elocution master, and singing master! Why are we to be tantalized by seeing chance after chance of success driven away by managers and artists for want of a proper and humble conviction of the necessity of education? It seemed to us too, that the management might have provided a better *Lisa* without searching far. We remember, with pleasure, a Miss Ward, whose performance in a version of 'Così fan tutte,' at the St. James's Theatre, was so artistic and lady-like, that a place might be found for her in any operatic company, especially one gathered for a rationally sized stage like the one in Oxford Street. It is with no ill-will to the new establishment that we venture the above strictures; but the aspect and the attentiveness of the audience were a sign to us, that an Opera is to be established on the scale and in the situation here attempted; and for the sake of the pleasure of the public as well as our own, it is better early to point out defects, than to search for remedies too late.

MISCELLANEA

Paris Academy of Sciences.—December 26.—Various questions were discussed. One was the experiments of M. Flourens on the bones of animals. This gentleman, acting on the known fact, that if an animal be fed for a length of time upon certain food, a particular colour will be imparted to the bones, has made various experiments, with a view to ascertain the extent to which this absorption of colour can be carried, and how far it may serve to indicate the process of nature in the development of the osseous structure. In examining the results obtained, microscopic observation is necessary. This is the point upon which M. Flourens has experienced some opposition; and after a long discussion no other conclusion has been come to than that M. Flourens has, by his researches, rendered an important service to science, although he may not be correct in all his inferences and conjectures.—A report was made by M. Regnault upon some experiments by M. Poiseuille, respecting the laws which influence the flow of water through very small tubes.—A communication from M. Morisset, on the virtues of the decoction of oak bark in various diseases for which it has not hitherto been used, was next read. This gentleman states that this is a valuable remedy in cases of encysted dropsy, in oedematous affections of the limbs, and for the obliteration of the hernial sac in young persons.—The next communication was from M. Vuillemin, of Epinal, on an *aérolite*, which fell, on the 5th ult., at half-past six in the morning in the environs of Langres, the sky being at the time unobscured by clouds, and the thermometer standing at 6 degrees centigrade below zero. At this moment the sky became suddenly illumined, as by a near flash of lightning. This light having ceased, it was succeeded two minutes afterwards by a noise resembling that of a loud clap of thunder. A rumbling noise, indicating the passage of the *aérolite*, followed, and continued for thirty seconds, in the direction of north to south, but it was impossible to say at what precise spot the *aérolite* touched the earth, as its light was, in the opinion of M. Vuillemin, extinguished as soon as it reached our atmosphere.

On the Numeral Figures. [From a Correspondent.]—The types from which numerals are printed were, from the invention of printing till about 1785, formed so as to give heads and tails to the figures, in the manner which is always used in handwriting. At the period just named, Dr. Hutton introduced in his logarithmic tables what was then a new form, in which the figures were all of one size, having no parts above or below the others. This system of Dr. Hutton's gradually became universal, much to the regret of all who had to consult mathematical tables, who were glad to use French tables, in preference to English, on account of the superiority of heads and tails. In the mean time, it was found that, with figures all of a size, a largertype was necessary, to secure sufficient legibili-

ty, and this type gave facilities to that formation of thick and thin lines which distinguishes the larger numerals of the existing English press from those of all other ages and countries:

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It was generally admitted that both circumstances,—the sameness of size, and the swelling of the lines which compose the figures,—were unfavourable to legibility; but no steps were taken to restore the old type until lately, when some works were published in what is called the *French brier*, being a type in which the heads and tails exist, and in which the thickness is as nearly as possible the same throughout. The Council of the Royal Astronomical Society, and the Superintendent of the Nautical Almanac, have recently come to the determination to restore the old form of the numerals in their respective publications, an example which is pretty sure to be followed in mathematical publications, and perhaps in others.

The Price of a Sensation.—The French papers mention, that "The Princess Jadimerowski, who died some time back in Russia, has left considerable legacies to two actors, one for having made her laugh, and the other weep. The following words are found in her will, in allusion to this matter:—'Having frequented the theatre for three years, and having felt there the only real emotions of my life, I think myself bound to recompense those persons who caused me so much gratification. I therefore bequeath to Karatiguin, who has so often made me shed such delicious tears, the sum of 50,000 roubles (about 200,000 fr.). I also bequeath to a young actor, whose name has slipped my memory, but whom it will be easy, I imagine, to discover in France, as being the person who used to play the *Gamin de Paris* at the Theatre-Michel, the sum of 30,000 roubles, for having so well amused me.' The French actor is Laferrière, of the Vaudeville. The testamentary executor, in announcing to him this intelligence, has stated that the heirs-at-law intend to contest the legacy; but that it is believed they will fail.

Aerial Travelling.—The following notice has appeared in *The London Gazette*. "Application is intended to be made in Parliament, in the next session, for leave to bring in a bill to authorize the assignment to, and purchase by, a company of certain letters patent, granted to William Samuel Henson, of New City-chambers, in the City of London, engineer, for certain improvements for locomotive apparatus, and machinery in conveying letters, goods, and passengers through the air, part of which improvements are applicable to locomotive and other machinery to be used on water or on land."

Daguerrotypes.—A patent has been granted to Mr. Beard for improvements in the means of taking likenesses. It consists in colouring the pictures, and the process is thus described in the *Mechanics' Magazine*. After a picture has been obtained, a tracing of it is made upon glass, and from this copy on glass as many other copies are taken in tracing-paper as there are different colours intended to be used. From the tracing appropriated to each colour those parts are cut out which are to be represented of that colour, so that, when superposed on the face of the picture, it covers all but those places where the colour is to be applied, (exactly in the same way as in stencilling.) The colours are applied in the state of an impalpable powder, mixed with just as much gum arabic or isinglass as suffices, when the colours are breathed upon, or otherwise gently heated, to fix the colours.

Protection from Accident by deleterious Gas.—An invention is described in the French papers which will, it is said, give such timely notice of the presence of deleterious gas in mines, or other places, as will enable persons to take the necessary precautions to guard against explosions. An explosion from the admixture of carburetted hydrogen with atmospheric air can only take place when the former exists in a certain and known proportion. When the quantity has reached or exceeded this point, the contact of a light instantly causes an explosion. The instrument recently invented has a sort of tell-tale to show the existence of danger, is simple, ingenious, and effectual. Connected with a chemical solution is a kind of float, nicely graduated, and attached to a counterpoise. The solution is of such a nature that it undergoes a change when acted upon by the admixture of car-

buretted hydrogen, and when saturated to a certain point the float changes its position, and acting in its turn upon the counterpoise, a spring is let loose, and strikes upon a bell or drum, giving out a loud sound, and thus indicating the presence of danger. This ingenious test is not liable to derangement, and the whole apparatus is comprised within a small compass, and of little cost. The solution can be varied so as to be adapted to every kind of deleterious gas.

British Museum.—On Monday last, no less than 30,000 persons visited this National Establishment! The conduct of all was orderly, and there was not a single instance of drunkenness or indecorum.

St. Mary's Church, Nottingham.—The *Nottingham Journal* mentions that, owing to certain alarming indications of the insecurity of the noble and massive tower of St. Mary's Church, the churchwardens resolved to consult Mr. Cottingham, the architect. A survey convinced him that the tower was in imminent danger, and that unless prompt and active measures were taken, the whole church in a few days might become a ruin. Workmen were immediately employed to fix horizontal bearers of heavy timber from pier to pier, after the manner of a wall, in order to prevent further bulging; as the work proceeded, symptoms of decay, more alarming than those first noticed, were discovered; new fissures opened; and the greatest fears were entertained for the tower. The church may now be considered as secured from falling; but, as new piers must be erected, and many parts of the sacred edifice must be restored and strengthened, a period of many months must elapse before the congregation can again assemble there for devotional purposes.

Street-Sweeping Machine.—Whitworth's "Patent Cleansing Machine" has been in operation in Manchester for the last ten months, and is about to be introduced into the metropolis. Manchester, instead of being the dirtiest, is now, we believe, the cleanest of our large towns. The power of the machine is extraordinary, being equal to thirty men; and, in its operation, the numerous annoyances which are inseparable from the old mode are altogether avoided. *Manchester Guardian.*

Highland Mary.—Some time ago a subscription was commenced for the purpose of erecting a monument to Highland Mary, over the spot where repose her ashes in the west churchyard, Greenock. Somewhere about 100*l.* was collected, and a monument, designed and executed by Mr. Mossman, has now been erected over the grave. The inscription on the monument, unless good taste prevent it, is to be the following bald conceit:—"Sacred to genius and love—to Burns and Highland Mary,"—it being considered too common-place and vulgar to inform the stranger that the monument is erected over the ashes of Mary Campbell. *Scottish Guardian.*

Organic Remains.—A quantity of bones of the bear, hyena, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, ox-deer, and elephant, have been discovered in a quarry on Durham Down, Bristol; and the peculiarity of the circumstance is, that they were found in a fissure only, which, as far as can be ascertained, extends a very considerable depth lower than the workmen have yet gone.

A Two-Humped Camel, a species much employed by the Chinese, and designated by them as the "camel with feet of the wind," has just been added to the collection in the Zoological Gardens.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We did not insert "A Reader's" complaint, because we altogether differ from him. It is not intended that every person should have free admission to the Reading Room of the British Museum;—that Institution was not established, and is not maintained, at great cost, as a sort of cheap library for idlers to spell over Hume's History or Scott's Novels; but for students and scholars, who may find there works to be met with nowhere else, or so costly that it is beyond their means to purchase them. As to the rule regulating admission, it is sufficiently liberal and comprehensive; and we doubt very much whether any one likely to benefit by attending there,—certainly no one, as asserted, of "literary distinction,"—could find difficulty in complying with it. Should such a case occur—should there be some rare exception—we have no doubt that Sir Henry Ellis would suggest other means by which the applicant could satisfy him of his respectability, for this is all that is required; and it is right that it should be required and enforced.

G.N.E.—J. F. H.—An Old Subscriber—received "J. G. is, of course, at liberty to act as he pleases. We say no more at present, because we have no wish to give needless pain.

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SUN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LONDON. Charles Pole, Esq. Chairman. William Burnie, Esq. Deputy Chairman. Hon. Hugh Lindsay. Charles Littledale, Esq. Henry Littledale, Esq. George W. Norman, Esq. John Cockerell, Esq. Brice Pearce, Esq. Charles Bell Ford, Esq. Brice Pearce, jun. Esq. Charles Richmond, Esq. Henry Rich, Esq. William R. Hamilton, Esq. Claude George Thornton, Esq. Edward Harman, Esq. George Smith Thornton, Esq. Felix Lohrock, Esq. H. Francis Shaw Lefevre, Esq.

LOW RATES.—PARTICIPATION IN PROFITS. THE MANAGERS OF THE SUN LIFE OFFICE beg leave to inform the public that their Rates on Young Lives are much lower than those of many other Offices, and that the Assured are entitled to a participation in the Profits of this Society.—Persons desiring to insure, or to learn more of the Assured Men, and others deriving incomes from their Professions or Trades, also those holding Estates on Lives, will see the advantage of effecting insurances in the Sun Life Office. Tables of Rates may be had at the Sun Life Office, in Cannon-street, at the Sun Life Office in Craig's-court, and at No. 6, Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, London; also of any of the Agents for the Sun Life Office.

ARGUS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 39, Throgmorton-street, Bank. Empowered by Parliament to secure the income of 50,000*l.* Thomas Farncomb, Esq. Alderman, Chairman. William Leaf, Esq. Deputy-Chairman. William Bantury, Esq. Robert Ingley, Esq. Edward Bates, Esq. Thomas Kelly, Esq. Ald. Thomas Camplin, Esq. Jeremiah Filcher, Esq. Sheriff of London and Middlesex. James Clift, Esq. J. Humphrey, M.P. Lewis Pocock, Esq. Lord Mayor of London.

Advantages of the Argus Life Assurance Company. In addition to the subscribed Capital of 500,000*l.* the assured have the security of the Company's income of 50,000*l.* annum, yearly increasing, and accumulating Assurance Fund invested in Government and other available Securities, of considerably larger amount than the estimated liabilities of the Company. The Rates of Premium are reduced to the lowest scale compatible with the safety of the Assured and the stability of the Company, thereby, in effect, giving to every policy-holder an immediate and certain bonus without risk, in lieu of the deferred and frequently delusive prospect of a periodical division of profits.

Annual Premium to Assure £100.

Age.	For One Year.	For Seven Years.	Whole Term.
20	£0 17 8	£0 11 10	£0 11 10
30	1 18	1 7	2 0 7
40	2 10	1 9	2 10 0
50	3 14	1 10	4 0 11
60	5 3 4	1 10	6 0 10

One-third of the whole term Premium may remain unpaid at per cent. comp. int. at a debt upon the Policy for life, or may be paid off at any time without notice. In Assurances for advances of money, as security for debts, or as a provision for a family, when the least present utility is desirable, the varied and comprehensive Tables of the Argus Office will be found to be particularly favourable to the Assured. A Board of Directors, with the Medical Officers, attend daily, at a quarter before 3 o'clock.

EDWARD BATES, Resident Director. A Liberal Commission to Solicitors and Agents.

ASYLUM FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC LIFE OFFICE, 70, Cornhill, and 5, Waterloo-place, London. Established in 1824. Directors: The Hon. William Fraser, Chairman. Major-Gen. Sir James Law Lushington, G.C.B. Dep. Chairman. J. Clarmont Whiteman, Esq. C. W. Hallett, Esq. Foster Reynolds, Esq. William Edmund Ferrers, Esq. William Pratt, Esq. Geo. Palmer, jun. Esq. G. Farren, Esq. Resident Director.

Medical Officers in London. R. Ferguson, M.D. F.R.S. 3, Queen-street, St. James's. J. Forbes, M.D. F.R.S. 12, Old Burlington-street. T. Callaway, Esq. Wellington-street, Southwark. Persons suffering from chronic disease or irregularity of form, in pregnancy, or old age, are assured at proportionate rates, the Asylum being the Company which originally extended the benefits of life insurance to such cases. **THE ASSYLUM INSURANCE OFFICE FOR HEALTHY LIVES.** The utmost advantages are secured by the smallest necessary outlay, in the first instance,—the Policies being continued year by year for the whole of life, whatever the future health of the assured, at a stipulated slight increase of premium, little exceeding the price of an ordinary term insurance, up to the age of 70, when the rate remains stationary.

RENEWABLE TERM RATES for select lives.

Age.	1st yr.	2nd yr.	3rd yr.	4th yr.	5th yr.	6th yr.	7th yr.
30	1 6 4	1 7 1	1 7 11	1 8 9	1 9 7	1 10 5	1 11 4

Extracts from the EVEN RATES for select lives.

Age.	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Term.	1 11 9	2 2 0	2 17 1	4 2 0	6 10 9	10 16 6	19 14

ALTERNATIVE. Two-thirds, only, of the even rates, whether for select or diseased lives, or for the risks of foreign climates, may be paid down, and the balance, with interest at 4 per cent. deducted from the sum assured. **FOREIGN AND MILITARY AND NAVAL INSURANCE.** Distinct classifications of places, according to salubrity of climate; a specific price for any particular place, or for a voyage or voyage. Officers whose destinations are not known, covered to all parts of the world at a small but fixed extra rate of premium. GEO. FARREN, Resident Director.

MR. MOON, HAVING RECEIVED HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND, HAS THE HONOR TO
ANNOUNCE HIS INTENTION TO PUBLISH, EARLY THIS SEASON,

A PRINT

FROM MR. LESLIE'S CELEBRATED PICTURE

OF

THE QUEEN RECEIVING THE HOLY SACRAMENT AT HER CORONATION.

This beautiful Work belongs to Her Majesty, and Mr. MOON has been honored by Her Majesty's gracious commands to have it engraved by Mr. SAMUEL COUSINS, A.R.A., it being the only Picture of the Coronation painted expressly for the Royal Collection.

The Picture represents one of the most interesting moments in that sacred and splendid ceremony that could be selected. The Painter, who was present, was so much struck by the beautiful appearance of Her Majesty kneeling at the altar, and so impressed with the deep and sacred character of the moment, that he chose it for his subject, as that which would become the fittest record of the event, as it represented the young and innocent Queen, after having vowed by the sacred obligations of her oath, to govern well and wisely the great people over whom she had been placed by Providence to reign, kneeling, in humble reverence and deep devotion, to HIM who had placed her at the head of a great nation; and thus ratifying by the most solemn rite of our holy religion, this her great compact with her people.

The Crown—the emblem of her station—and all her ornaments, are removed from her, except the Dalmatic robe, as she bends before that Infinite Power, which makes no future distinction between the prince and his people—but is equally the Father of all. It is a striking feature in this fine work of art, that it tends to excite deeply religious emotions—it represents the most sacred act of duty and devotion of one who kneels to acknowledge her allegiance where all bow in a common faith, and in a common hope of mercy; where she must obtain hers by as faithful a fulfilment of her duty, as that which is claimed from the lowest of her subjects.

Mr. MOON intends to make this one of the largest Prints ever executed; the Engraving will be nearly four feet long and two feet high. The perfect likenesses made by the Painter of the principal personages, and the beauty of character and expression which prevails, render this necessary to do it justice; and upon such a scale, and in Mr. Cousins' hands, such justice will be done. There are no crowds to fill the canvas: not a head seen but of those whose duty it was to attend Her Majesty, or members of her august family. The whole scene lies between the throne and the altar, and no gallery or its occupants are seen, to disturb the concentration of the interest upon that act of deep devotion. There are Thirty-eight Portraits introduced with a fidelity of representation never exceeded. All had their places in the picture sanctioned by the Queen, and all sat to Mr. LESLIE at the gracious command of Her Majesty.

The price of the Proofs and Impressions will necessarily bear proportion to the great cost of the production of the Engraving, upon which no expense will be spared; and by Mr. Moon's arrangement with Mr. Cousins, every impression will be delivered through him—a guarantee that they will not be unworthy to display his great talent, and support his distinguished reputation. The price of the impressions from the Engraving of this work, which it is just to reiterate contains nearly Forty Portraits, will be, to Subscribers, Prints, with the Dedication, 12*l.* 12*s.*; Proofs, with the Royal Arms and Title, 15*l.* 15*s.*

20, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON,
January 6, 1843.